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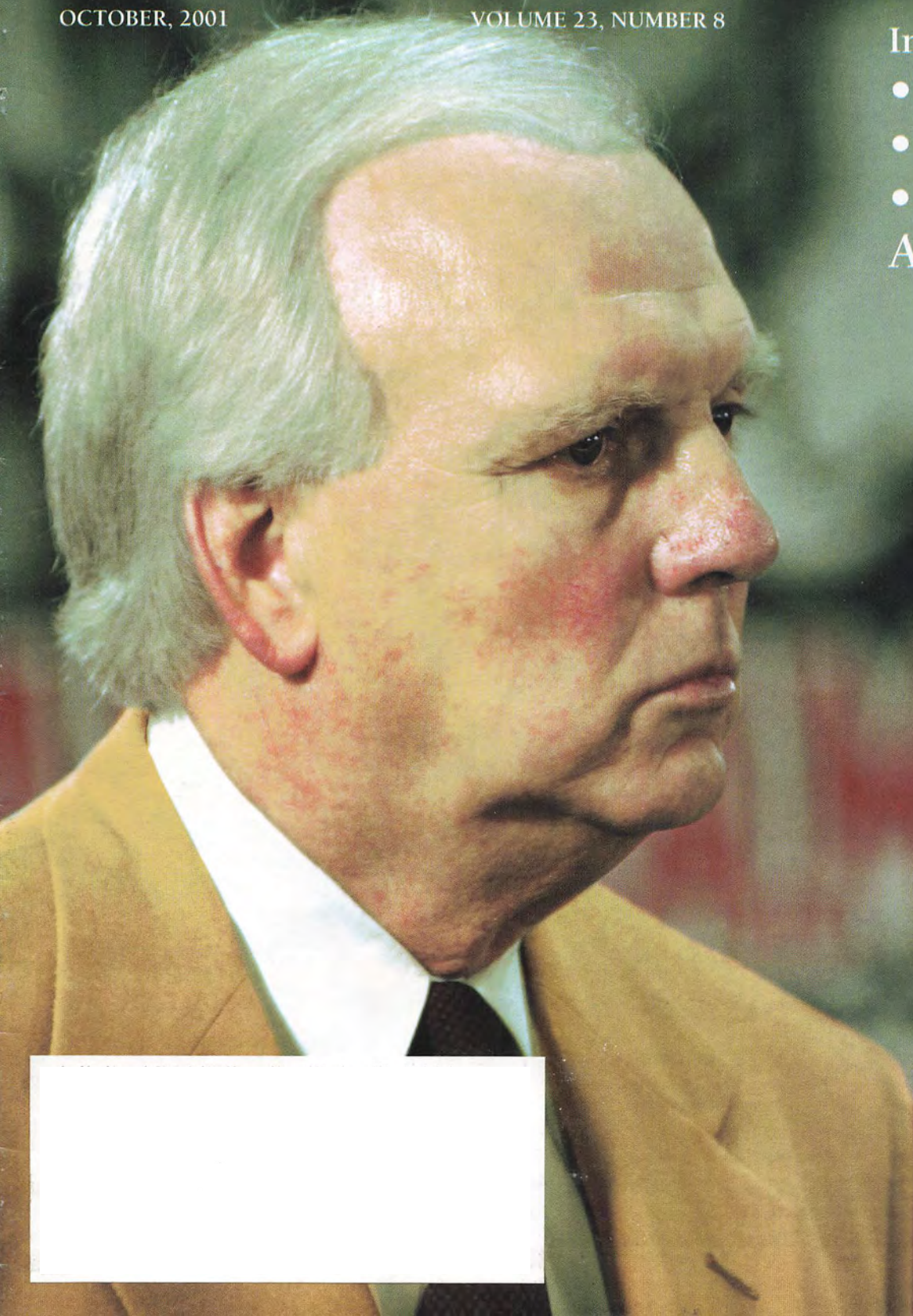
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OCTOBER, 2001

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 8

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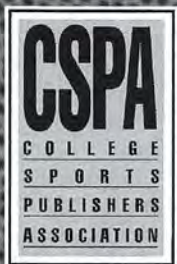


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A service of 'BAMA Magazine  
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074

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## Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE  
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is pub-  
lished monthly for ten months from August  
to May by College Sports Publications, Inc.,  
2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.  
Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address  
to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON  
TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL  
35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa,  
Alabama, and at additional mailing office.  
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign  
subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change  
of address: Six weeks advance notice, and  
old address as well as new required. Address  
all correspondence to: Post Office Box  
866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054.  
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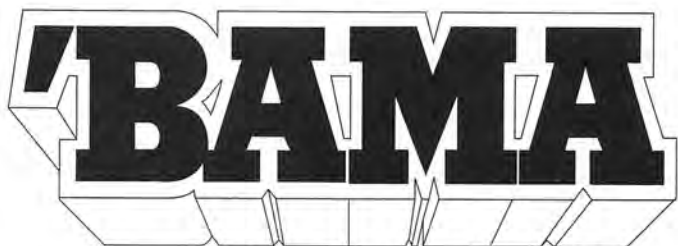
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Barry Fikes Photo



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The NCAA Enforcement Staff took over three months longer than expected to complete its investigation into Alabama football. When the Letter of Inquiry, which sets forth the allegations, finally arrived it did not charge the most serious offense, lack of institutional control. Alabama has already been penalized on recruiting season and is hoping to avoid a second such penalty with a quick reply to the allegation.

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Alabama has all of its starters back from last year, signed two of the nation's top prep players to join the squad, and yet has some concerns, notably a beefed up schedule and a lack of "beef" in the middle, at least for back-up support. Still, Bama should be pretty good.

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# BAMA SCORECARD

## Decisions

Appropriately, major college football, along with other sports and entertainment events, were cancelled the weekend of September 15 following the murderous terrorist attacks that killed thousands of Americans in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. The Southeastern Conference waffled on the decision, first deciding to play, then electing to join virtually every other sports governing body in cancelling games. When the conference first decided to play its games, it announced that it would donate \$1 million to charities assisting the victims. Even after cancelling, the conference said it would make the donation.

The cancellation of games forced massive rescheduling, and Alabama had a difficulty in making the change that would enable it to play Southern Miss—the game that had been scheduled in Birmingham's Legion Field on September 15. Part of the problem was Southern Miss making arrangements to change another game, either East Carolina on November 24 or TCU on November 30. Alabama was not going to change its schedule to play on its open date, October 27, because that would give Alabama nine straight weeks of games.

Some games were easy to fix because the SEC moved its championship game back a week to December 8 and put all of the conference games that were cancelled on December 1. Some teams, including South Carolina, actually changed opponents, and that was an option Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore had to consider. A handful of teams called Moore seeking a game if the Tide did not reschedule Southern Miss.

By the time this is read the game should have been rescheduled. Options included the weekend of either November 24 or December 1, or, possibly, a mid-week game, such as Thursday, November 29, if a television contract could be arranged. That would also make it possible for the game to be played in Birmingham's Legion Field, where it was originally scheduled, and avoid a difficult ticket problem.

## Sideline Switch

When Alabama's game against Southern Miss on September 15 in Birmingham's Legion Field was cancelled, it delayed, at least, an experiment. Alabama had planned to switch sidelines for the game. With only a few exceptions, since 1949 Alabama teams have used the East sideline for their home games. Most schools use the West sideline. Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione prefers the West sideline because it is easier for him to see the first down chain and yardage marker and, thus, make a quicker decision in play selection. Alabama is scheduled to play Texas-El Paso in Birmingham October 6 and that game will probably see Bama on the West (press box side) sideline.

## Keith Jackson Scholarship

Keith Jackson, considered the voice of college football for his many years as lead sportscaster on ABC college football coverage, has established the Keith and Turi Ann Jackson Endowed Scholarship in the College of Communication and Information Sciences at The University of Alabama.

The scholarship will go to students in the telecommunication and film department who show promise as broadcast professionals, said Dr. Culpepper Clark, dean of the college.

In making the gift Jackson said, "I enjoy the people of Alabama and the many places I have visited in the state. It's been a pleasure to be associated with the history and tradition of The University of Alabama and the Crimson Tide. My wife and I are honored to be able to contribute to the next generation of broadcast professionals."

Jackson is not an Alabama graduate, but he has written or voiced introductions to many UA specials, including the foreword to Winston Groom's illustrated history, "The Crimson Tide," and many tributes to the late Paul "Bear" Bryant. Jackson, a native of Georgia, received his degree in broadcast journalism program at Washington State.

## Pate Wins Gold

Alabama All-America long jumper Miguel Pate capped a tremendous run during the summer when he won the gold medal at the World University Games in Beijing, China. His first jump of 26-5.75 gave him the gold medal over Stephan Louw of Namibia (26-4.5).

Pate had an excellent summer of competition. After a fifth place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, Pate has posted a second place finish at the U.S. Championships, tied for third at the World Championships, and can now add gold to his resume.

Pate's Crimson Tide teammate, and All-America hurdler Ron Bramlett, finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles, posting a time of 13:49. He was the top American finisher in the event.

Pate also qualified, earlier in the summer, to compete in the 2001 Goodwill Games being held in Australia but opted out so he would not miss more class time.

## Mohr To Majors

When former Alabama baseball star Dustiin Mohr was promoted to the Major Leagues this summer, he made his debut one to remember. Mohr started in his first game after being promoted by the Minnesota Twins. He was elevated from the New Britain Rock Cats, an AA team in the Eastern League. He had a home run and three runs batted in in his final minor league game, then went one for three with three runs batted in and a crucial fielding gem in his first game with the Twins.

Mohr became the 40th former Crimson Tider to play Major League Baseball, more than any other Southeastern Conference school. In addition, Mohr is the second player from the Jim

Wells era to reach the big leagues, joining left-hand pitcher Tim Young, who made his debut with the Montreal Expos in September, 1998. Young is playing in Japan.

A native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Mohr was a three-year letterman (1995-97) for the Crimson Tide. In 200 career games, Mohr batted .312 (233-for-747) with 47 home runs and 178 RBI. Mohr ranks fourth all-time at Alabama with 47 career home runs. In addition, he is one of 18 players in SEC history to swat 40 or more career home runs.

## Fall Baseball Notes

Alabama's fall baseball program was begun in mid-September and will continue through Sunday, October 14. The team does not practice on Mondays. Scrimmages are held each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All practices and scrimmages are open to the public with no admission charge.

Coach Jim Wells' squad includes the return of six everyday starters and 23 newcomers. Alabama finished the 2001 season with a 32-23 overall record, including a 15-15 mark in league play.

Freshman quarterback Spencer Pennington, who is also an outstanding baseball infielder, is not participating in fall baseball practice due to his football obligations, but he will join the team this spring as he juggles both sports.

The Crimson Tide will open the 2002 season on Tuesday, February 12 against Louisiana Tech at Sewell-Thomas Stadium.

Bama finished second in the nation in attendance last year for the second straight year. It was also the third consecutive top finish under Wells. In 32 home dates, Alabama drew 180,310 fans for an average of 5,635 per game. LSU won its sixth straight NCAA attendance championship with 276,622 fans (7,476 avg.) in 37 home dates. The remainder of the Top 10 included Texas (150,901), Texas A&M (147,400), South Carolina (145,616), Tulane (127,670), Miami, Fla. (123,680), Fresno State (105,162), Rice (99,574) and Wichita State (96,158). Alabama finished second nationally in attendance in 2000 and fifth in 1999.

Senior catcher Jeremy Brown was named to *Baseball America's* Summer League All-America team for the second year in a row. The Hueytown native batted .389 (44-for-133) with eight home runs and 30 RBI for Northern Ohio of the Great Lakes League. He led Northern Ohio to its second consecutive league championship, defeating the Delaware Cows in the best-of-three championship series. Brown, who shared the regular-season MVP award, was named playoff MVP thanks to three home runs.

## Title For Tide

Although this is considered a rebuilding year for Alabama volleyball because of the loss of so many senior stars, Coach Judy Green's young team may have more talent this season. In its opening tournament of the

year, at New Mexico State, Bama won its first in-season tournament championship since the 1998 Crimson Tide Classic. The Hilton Classic crown also marked the Tide's 21st all-time tournament title. Sophomore Shelly Adamcik became just the sixth Crimson Tide player to garner tournament MVP honors. Sophomore Erin Price joined Adamcik on the all-tournament list.

#### Millionaire Shoots 58

It's not news that a touring golf professional might be a millionaire. And it's not news when that golfer shoots a low score, even a VERY low score. But it's something of a news story when that golfer is former Alabama player Jason Bohn. Bohn was never much of a contributor to the Crimson Tide golf team, primarily because he lost his eligibility so quickly. In a hole-in-one contest Bohn bounced his shot into the cup and won \$1 million, thus making him a professional and ineligible for college play. In mid-September Bohn won his second tournament on the Canadian PGA Tour, shooting a professional record 58 in the final round of the Bayer Championship. Bohn, 28, had one bogey in his 13-under-par round on the par 71 Huron Oaks Country Club in Sarnia, Ontario. He said it was the first time in his five years on the tour his parents had come to watch him play. His 24-under par score was the best on the tour this year and gave him a two-stroke victory. His previous best competitive round had been 62.

#### Fall Golf

Although college golf is primarily a spring sport, there is a limited fall schedule. And it includes one of the nation's most prestigious tournaments, the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate, hosted by Alabama. This year's tournament will be October 15-16 at Old Overton Club in Birmingham. (The public is invited and there is no admission charge.)

Among the participants is the 2001 national golfer of the year, Bryce Molder of Georgia Tech who won last year's Pate with a 17-under-par score. The 12 teams coming include the host school, Alabama, which in its first two appearances this fall has a first and a second. Defending Pate team champion, Clemson, returns after a 2001 season in which it finished second at the NCAA Championships. Arizona, which finished third in the nation last year will be there as will Georgia Tech (fourth), Georgia (fifth), Arizona State (sixth), Wake Forest (10th), Alabama-Birmingham (12th), Auburn, UNLV, Oklahoma State and Texas.

The tournament has been an annual event since 1986. Jerry Pate, who starred at Alabama and won the U.S. Amateur title his senior year, is a hands-on host to this tournament, which has raised thousands of dollars for charity. Among the most famous participants was Tiger Woods who came in fresh from winning the 1994 U.S. Amateur and won the 1994 Pate medalist title en route to leading Stanford to the team championship.

This season marks Dick Spybey's 14th as Alabama head men's coach at Alabama.

Bama 10-under-par and finished second to host University of Charleston in the 15-team

Kiawah Island Intercollegiate to start the year, then took first place in the Mason Rudolph Invitational in Nashville with a 25-under-par performance. The tournament, hosted by Vanderbilt, at its new Legends Golf Club, was held concurrently with a women's tournament. The Tide men combined with the Tide women to win the Combined Trophy. Six schools sent both a men's and women's team to compete and Alabama emerged with the best combined finish to win that trophy as the Tide women finished fourth.

Other fall events for the men's team are the Tournament of Champions in Knoxville October 22-23 and the Louisiana Intercollegiate at Baton Rouge October 29-30.

The women's team of Coach Betty Palmer will also host a tournament this year, the Capstone Intercollegiate at the new Capstone Club October 26-28. Bama was to play in the ACC-SEC against Florida State at The Raven at Sandestin, Florida, September 28-30, and will play in the Tennessee Invitational in Knoxville October 12-14.

#### Tennis Ranking

Both the men's and women's Alabama tennis teams have players ranked among the nation's best. All-America men's tennis player Maxim Belski is ranked ninth in singles preseason rankings by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. Belski was 21-12 with a 9-4 Southeastern Conference record as a sophomore last season. He finished the season ranked 19th.

Belski and sophomore Stephen Mitchell were ranked at 42 in the doubles rankings. Mitchell amassed an 18-5 doubles record last season combining with three different partners.

Tide sophomore Chris Gostek is ranked 94th. Gostek posted a 17-10 record his freshman season playing in the two and three positions.

The men's team of Coach Adam Steinberg has a limited fall schedule. October 11-14 the Tide will be in Atlanta for the All-American Championships and the Georgia Tech Fall Invitational and Bama will play in the ITA Regionals in Knoxville October 25-29.

The women's tennis team has two players ranked in the ITA preseason singles rankings.

Sophomore Emmanuelle Berard, who played number one singles and doubles for the Crimson Tide last year, is ranked 23rd. Last year, Berard finished the season with a 23-13 singles record, and was ranked 40th at the end of the season.

Senior Selia Mathew also cracks the top-100 list at 66th. Mathew played number two singles for Alabama last year and finished the season with a 24-11 singles record. Mathew finished the 2001 season with a singles ranking of 97.

Berard also received a doubles ranking 50th with sophomore Millie Begovic. Begovic did not play last spring due to injury.

The Crimson Tide women were to begin fall play hosting the Roberta Alison Classic in Tuscaloosa September 28-30. Seniors Becca Baum and Weyli Chang were to represent Alabama at the World Team Tennis held in San Diego, California, also September 28-30. The team will be at the San Diego State Invitational October 5-7 then the Riviera in

Los Angeles October 6-14. The ITA Regionals will be in Mobile October 26-29.

One of the events affected by the SEC's cancellation of athletics events the week of September 15 was Bama's annual Tennis Playday. The event, which includes a cook-out, prizes, tennis drills, and other activities will be 2-4 p.m. CDT October 21 at the Crimson Tide courts. In event of rain Playday will move to the indoor courts.

#### Pool Gets A Name

The University Aquatic Center will have a celebration the evening of Friday, October 5, when the pool is dedicated as the Don Gambril Olympic Pool. The pool will be named for the former Alabama coach who earned fame both for his work in leading the Crimson Tide to national prominence and in international swimming, including being head coach of the United States Olympic Team. Simultaneously, there will be a dedication of The University of Alabama Swimming Hall of Fame. Numerous former Alabama greats are expected for the event.

#### All-Around Performer

Alabama soccer captain Ellen Sanders, as the cliché goes, did everything but sell popcorn when the Crimson Tide hosted Birmingham-Southern. Sanders led the Tide to a 4-0 victory as she scored Bama's first two goals, then she assisted on the fourth score. Prior to the match she led the crowd in singing the National Anthem.

#### Jerry Harper

Alabama basketball legend Jerry Harper, who has held the Southeastern Conference career rebounds record for 46 years, died in Montgomery September 16 following a lengthy illness.

Harper, 67, was inducted into the state's Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Harper, 6-8, was a two-time All-America at Alabama. He was a four-time All-SEC center and ranked among the nation's top ten in rebounding as a freshman in 1953 and a junior in 1955.

Harper came to Alabama to play for Johnny Dee's Crimson Tide team from his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. He was an immediate hit, averaging 17.8 points and 17.0 rebounds in 21 games as a freshman. He averaged 17.8 points and 14.9 rebounds as a sophomore, 21.0 points and 19.0 rebounds as a junior and 23.2 points and 21.5 rebounds his senior season.

His 1,688 career rebounds still stands 46 years later as the SEC's all-time record. The closest any player has come to that mark was Alabama's Leon Douglas, who is a distant second with 1,279 rebounds during his Alabama career from 1973-76. Harper also holds the league record in single season rebounds per game at 21.5 in 1956 when he had a total of 517 rebounds in 24 games. His 19.0 rebounds in 1955 ranks fourth all-time in the SEC and his 17.0 rebounds in 1953 ranks tenth all-time in the league. Harper also leads the SEC in all-time career rebounds per game with his 18.2 rebounds per game average in 93 games. His 33 rebounds in a 1955 game against Louisiana College ranks third all-time in the SEC.



# Tide Tries To Avoid More Penalties

by Kirk McNair

University hopes to make up for time lost by NCAA

**I**t will be in the best interest of The University of Alabama if its legal team can perform its duty more competently than did the NCAA Enforcement Staff. The investigation into Alabama football had been expected, according to an NCAA officer, to be completed by June 1. As it turned out, the NCAA staff did not finish its work until more than three months after that target date. While there could be reasonable expectation for a moderate delay, the final charges with no surprises suggest the possibility of indifference towards a member institution on the part of the investigative staff.

Now Alabama must rush to complete its work by October 24 if The University is to have any chance of being on the NCAA Infractions Committee November docket and avoiding another unofficial penalty. Although there is no reason for the NCAA to be concerned about the problems caused Alabama, that doesn't mean the problem isn't there. Last year the recruiting opponents of Alabama were able to tell prospects preposterous "facts" about the upcoming Alabama penalty. The result cost Bama recruits. If The University is not able to get on the November 16-17 docket this year, and have the penalties assessed and in the open by January, Alabama football recruiters will receive yet another unofficial penalty in fighting the lies of recruiting opponents. The next meeting of the Infractions Committee after November is after February 8-9, right after the February 6 football signing date.

Alabama officials have said they will be able to respond quickly because they have been in lock step with the NCAA investigators and because there were no unpleasant surprises in the charges. Two former assis-

tant coaches were named in the charges against Alabama and they, too, have the right to respond, and Alabama's case is tied with them. If either Ronnie Cottrell or Ivy Williams intends to respond and is not prepared for the November docket, then Alabama will be forced to wait until February. There is also the possibility that the Infractions Committee would have its limit of two schools on the docket before Alabama could respond.

Kentucky, which is basically pleading guilty or no contest to every charge against its football program, is already on the November docket. Another school was thought to be scheduled to be heard in November, but that school is going to have its case decided by summary disposition, thus opening up a slot. If Alabama is have its case heard in November it will have a pre-hearing with the Enforcement Staff two weeks prior.

**T**he Enforcement Staff leveled 16 charges against Alabama, 11 of them considered major. In announcing the receipt of the Official Letter of Inquiry, University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen said, "We are heartened that The University has not been charged with 'lack of institutional control' or 'failure to monitor.' We hope that NCAA officials recognize we are dealing with the negative actions of a very few, and that our approach to compliance is one of great diligence...We will respond, correct and move forward with absolutely no sacrifice in the integrity of our program."

Those remarks came at a press conference in which a redacted copy of the letter was distributed. The announced reasons for the letter having all names and other personally identifiable information removed are privacy laws, the continuing investigation, and a request of the NCAA Enforcement Staff. That last is particularly important to a group that would want to avoid a lawsuit.

There is little doubt that the cooperation by The University and, particularly, the day-to-day work of Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie Robbins and Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh, had an

effect on the charges not including the most serious regarding oversight. The Alabama legal team also includes staff attorney Stan Murphy and a former NCAA investigator, Rich Hilliard, who now lives in Indianapolis and is a specialist in dealing with colleges being investigated by his former employer.

All of the legal team have law degrees, but only the most generous definition would include any of them as real world attorneys. There have been rumors of adding a practicing plaintiff lawyer, or even criminal defense attorney, but there has been no announcement of The University going to that extreme.

The NCAA Enforcement Staff has a record of bringing charges without proof. As anyone who followed the events of 1995 knows, the Infractions Committee has a record of atrocious unfairness that can hardly be explained away as mere incompetence. While the Infractions Committee made a quick retreat when sued by former Alabama Faculty Chairman of Athletics Tom Jones, The University elected to not make that strong fight. That is likely the strategy again.

Alabama is considered "a repeat offender" because of its 1995 penalty, which ranks with the penalties issued against Ole Miss as the most unfair in NCAA history. In fact, the Enforcement Staff had noted that the findings against Alabama were that the violations were "inadvertent and non-systemic" and recommended Alabama's self-imposed scholarship reductions be accepted as penalty. The Infractions Committee added a charge that was later proved to be false, but it meant that The University was saddled with massive additional penalties which were not removed.

In 1999 Alabama again was before the committee because of basketball violations self-reported first by alumni to University officials, and then by Alabama to the NCAA. The NCAA congratulated Alabama on its compliance and then added two more years to the "repeat offender" window.

The basis for a finding of a violation is listed in NCAA Bylaw 32.7.6.2: "The committee shall base its findings on information presented to it that it determines is credible,

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University of Alabama President Dr. Andrew Sorensen has been adamant in his insistence that those working for The University be diligent and cooperative regarding compliance with NCAA rules. He addressed the media when Alabama released information regarding receipt of the NCAA Official Letter of Inquiry.

Barry Fikes Photo

persuasive and of a kind on which reasonably prudent persons rely in the conduct of serious affairs." In other words, not on proof.

**T**hus, even though Athletics Director Mal Moore said, "We will correct where correction is necessary and we

will defend where we believe that action is justified," that may not be the case. One of those prominently mentioned in the charges is Memphis booster Logan Young. Young has insisted that there is no proof of any of the allegations against him. (He could not be considered guilty of a charge in which he is involved only because he made a perfectly

legal loan to former Assistant Coach Ronnie Cottrell.) Until recently, he also said that it was his information that Alabama would fight for him.

It now seems likely that Alabama recognizes the wisdom of giving the NCAA Young's head. Even though it seems that Young is correct when he says there is no evidence against him, the Enforcement Staff used the tactic of mentioning him numerous times, thus giving the appearance of guilt. And Alabama's staff is likely to understand that even though it could win the battle of the charges against Young, to do so would bring the wrath of the Infractions Committee and the trebled damages it would inflict for those charges that Alabama agrees with. Look for The University to disassociate Young.

The letter charged that Young offered \$115,000 to high school coach Lynn Lang to steer Albert Means to Alabama and that Young made at least \$30,000 in payments. It also mentioned Young in connection with loans of \$55,000 and \$1,600 made to Cottrell. The big problem with that seems to be that Cottrell denied receiving the loans. There is also the statement that Cottrell made no effort to repay the loans until the NCAA learned of them, but the facts are that the NCAA learned of them from Young and that Young was repaid in a reasonable time.

There are a handful of "booster" charges that may include Young, but that cannot be known absolutely. They include a charge that in 1995-96 that Kenny Smith of North Jackson in Stevenson was paid \$20,000 to sign with Alabama. All those who are known to be involved in the scheme (including Smith) agree that Smith was paid, but insist it was a high school recruiting scandal, not an Alabama situation. The charges also include two boosters improperly met and introduced themselves to prospects and their coaches in a campus building and at the spring football game. And there is a charge of "\$100 handshakes" from a booster, although that is not thought to be Young.

The Means scandal also includes The University having provided excess meals and hotel rooms for the prospect and his high school coaches, Lang and Milton Kirk.

Cottrell is also mentioned for having helped a player get a speeding ticket dismissed.

There is a charge that Travis Carroll had free use of a leased 1994 car for three months in 1999. The car was repossessed when Carroll transferred to Florida. Although the charge indicates former Alabama Assistant Coach Neil Callaway, now at Georgia, arranged the loan, Callaway, surprisingly, was not charged.

There is an allegation that prospects and their hosts were entertained at parties in which "exotic (i.e., strip tease) female





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dancers." performed.

Alabama is charged with inadvertently playing an ineligible player, Harold James. [Alabama played him because he had passed through the NCAA Clearinghouse.]

The NCAA alleges that Cottrell knew that former prospect Michael Gaines had had his ACT taken by someone else and failed to disclose that information. Gaines was never admitted to The University.

Williams was charged with violating ethical standards because he said he was not aware of the scheme of Means' coaches to sell their player. He was also charged with making excessive visits to high schools in Memphis.

There were also charges of excessive financial aid related to a summer meal plan and of misuse of complimentary game tickets.

**I**t is accepted as fact that Alabama will self-impose some penalties in hopes of placating the Infractions Committee. The rule of thumb is that it is better to over self-impose than to not impose enough. In either case the Infractions Committee is going to add to the penalty. As one insider put it, "They have to prove there is a reason for them to exist." The added penalty will be much worse if the committee feels the

school has not dealt with itself harshly enough. Of course, by self-imposing too much, the school over-penalizes itself when the Infractions Committee adds on.

One advantage for Alabama could be that Marsh is a member of the Infractions Committee. Presumably he would have an idea of what would be acceptable. Research in this area is not particularly fruitful because the Infractions Committee is not consistent. No one would suggest that the University of Mississippi was treated the same as Notre Dame. A prudent person would expect Alabama to be treated more like Mississippi than Notre Dame.

For instance, it is believed at Alabama that if The University does not disassociate Logan Young that the Infractions Committee will add a charge not leveled by the Enforcement Staff, the dreaded "Lack of Institutional Control."

One final note: There has been a suggestion that the uncomplimentary remarks about the NCAA Enforcement Staff and Infractions Committee by 'BAMA, an independent publication not associated with Alabama, could hurt The University when it goes before the Infractions Committee. Despite the low opinion we have of the Infractions Committee, we do not believe that it could be that pernicious.

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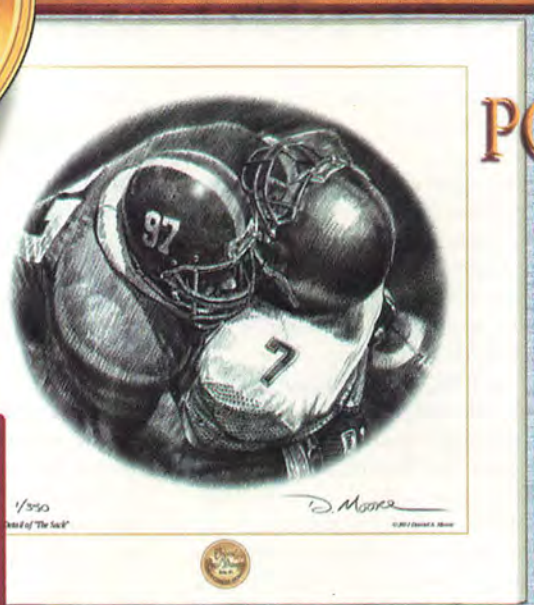
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# History Is All Around University

by J.E. Lisby

Many campus buildings have a Bama football past

Alabama football, past and present, is readily accessible. The Paul W. Bryant Museum on the campus of The University, utilized by fans and researchers to view the storied history of the Crimson Tide. Fans with an inclination to be in Tuscaloosa in the spring and early pre-season know that it is often possible to watch a Bama football practice. The inquisitive might also catch Crimson Tide players in the weight room or heading in or out of the locker room. Bama notables in coaching and administration can be seen in and

around the athletics complex comprised of the Football Building and Coleman Coliseum.

Although a capital campaign for athletics (Crimson Tradition Fund) is now under way to upgrade or replace some current facilities, most of the buildings currently in use are relatively new. Both the Football Building (where Head Coach Dennis Franchione and Director of Athletics Mal Moore occupy corner offices) and the Crisp Indoor Facility were built in the mid-1980s. Even though money was raised and plans put in place for those facilities by Paul Bryant, who served as athletics director as well as head football coach at Alabama from 1958 through 1982, he never saw the two buildings, much less worked in them. Bryant's last office was on the second floor of Coleman Coliseum, part of what is now a suite of rooms occupied by the men's basketball program. Facing the front of the building, it's possible to spot the

window at the upper left where Bryant finished his amazing career. That office is now used as a conference room for basketball. The furniture from Bryant's office is part of a display at the Bryant Museum.

Those with an interest in the history of Alabama athletics would naturally begin at the Bryant Museum. But for the ambitious, there is more to see. Reggie Harris, an avid fan of Alabama football and an amateur historian in Tuscaloosa, has spent countless hours researching the less well-known sites that are important in Crimson Tide athletics. His research provides the basis of this article and the guidelines for anyone wishing to make an easy walking tour of historic sports sites in Tuscaloosa.

**M**OORE HALL—Located at the corner of University Boulevard and Sixth Avenue across from the old Law School building. When Coach Bryant



When Coach Paul Bryant returned to Alabama as head football coach and director of athletics in 1958 his office and the center of Crimson Tide athletics was in Moore Hall.  
Barry Fikes Photo



arrived on campus in 1958, the athletics building (as it was known then) was the hub of the Bama football world. As Clem Gryska (1947-48, assistant coach 1960-76) recounts, Bryant's office was in the back left corner of the building, providing a clear view of Foster Auditorium across the way. "He could look out his window and see the front of Foster," Gryska said. "As a matter of fact, when (Governor George) Wallace stood in the schoolhouse door, Coach Bryant sat right there and watched it. The state police had closed everything off. They wouldn't even let (the assistant coaches) on campus, but nobody stopped Coach Bryant."

From 1935 when the building was built until 1968 when Coleman Coliseum was completed, head coaches kept their main offices inside Moore. Tommy Brooker (1958-61), who went on to a career in the NFL, was an end on Coach Bryant's first Alabama teams. "On that main level were coaches offices, the training room, and our locker room," he said. "We had old lockers that looked like they were from an old army barracks."

Frank Thomas was the first football coach to occupy Moore, with Harold "Red" Drew, J.B. "Ears" Whitworth, and Bryant to follow. Three conference champions and Thomas' second national championship team used its facilities, and though the team moved in 1960, Bryant's main office remained until 1968. "In the off season when I was playing professional football I would always go back to Moore Hall to visit with Coach Bryant," said Brooker. "He always seemed to enjoy those visits—but probably not as much as I did."

Bryant's first office with its spare concrete-block walls—familiar to Tide fans from old photographs—can still be viewed. A marker board covers the wall that once held his chalkboard, but the room (now a small conference area) itself hasn't changed much in the intervening years. The old locker rooms have been divided into smaller locker areas, including separate male and female rest rooms. But the same concrete floors, not to mention the same rusting and balky show-ers, are still there.

**B**RICK ARCHWAY connecting Moore and Little halls—Nothing more than a simple covered sidewalk between the adjacent buildings, the area holds powerful memories for athletes from that era. Explained Gryska; "They weren't quite as organized as we are today, and the players would sit around the overpass area until everyone was ready, then head out to the practice fields." Visitors should note the concrete steps leading down to the sidewalk,

heavily worn by the footsteps of past Tide athletes.

"We had benches underneath the overpass," Brooker said. "On certain days Coach Bryant would come out singing 'Bringing in the Sheaves,' and we knew we were going to have one heckuva practice before the day was over. Those arches sort of symbolized his power. There were days when he'd come out and it'd be pouring down rain. He'd look up and shake his head and walk back underneath the arches. Then the clouds would part, and the sun would come out. Of course that would just make it even hotter on us."

**O**LD DENNY FIELD—The team would then walk between two women's dorms (Wilson and Parker-Adams) to the practice fields. Unfortunately, today one must use imagination on this one. Formerly entered through a wrought-iron gate with 'Denny Field' across the top, the L-shaped, fence-enclosed fields extended all the way to the road (now Bryant Drive) and encompassed most of what is now Martha-Parham Hall and the parking lot next to it. "Games were actually played here from the early 1900s till 1929," said Harris. "And it was the practice field for all teams until the

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This was the apartment building of Paul and Mary Harmon Bryant when they were a young married couple in Tuscaloosa in the late 1930s.

Barry Fikes Photo

Drew-Thomas fields were developed in the early '60s. Alabama played teams like Georgia, Tennessee and Georgia Tech here, though the Auburn games (1895 and 1901) were played on the Quad."

**L**ITTLE HALL—Functioning as the men's athletic building prior to Moore Hall, the great Rose Bowl squads of 1925, 1926, 1930 and 1934 had locker rooms and offices here. The legendary teams of Wallace Wade and Frank Thomas that won six conference titles and four national titles—putting Southern football on the national map in the process—walked these halls. Used as dorm space and later for the nursing school after Moore Hall next door was built, the building has been renovated over the years. Today Little Hall houses classrooms and faculty offices. However, a close look past the temporary walls and new hallways will reveal the spaces formerly used to house athletes.

Probably the most interesting part of the building is locked away from public view. "They used Little Hall as a dormitory until the mid-1950s," Gryska said. "They packed them in four to a room. And upstairs was the gymnasium." The entire third floor was open, and varsity basketball games were held there before Foster Auditorium was built in 1939. Former nursing students re-

call dances staged there in the 1940s, but today the area has deteriorated to the point where it's unsafe to allow any visitors.

**T**HIRD-FLOOR GYM, Moore Hall—With no rules to limit off-season practice time, former athletes remember more clearly than anything else the workout areas where those championship teams were forged. "That gym was considered by most of us as a torture chamber," Brooker said. "It was upstairs and was VERY intensive. Quickness drills, (sometimes vicious) wrestling on an old mat, an elevated ladder you'd climb by hand. It was like the military. The rooftop was just outside, and fellas would go out there through a crawl space to regurgitate. I'll always remember running up and down those metal stairs leading up to that third-floor gym." The old basketball goals and workout mats are gone, but most of the old gym area is still there. Used for physical education classes and as a dance studio today, a quick climb up the center stairwell takes a visitor directly there.

**F**RIEDMAN HALL—Located behind what is now the campus police department at University Boulevard and Stadium Drive, some of the old football facilities still serve the same function, though changes have obviously been made. Before

Little Hall, athletes were housed in what was called "The B.O. House," a converted home that no longer exists. But by the time Bryant arrived in 1958 the entire football squad lived in Friedman. "One of the first things Coach Bryant did was raise the money to air condition that place," Gryska said. "Back then there weren't very many air conditioners around, so that was a big luxury." Those early building units had notoriously bad thermostats. "You've heard the expression 'You can hang meat in there?'" Brooker said. "Well I did. I would fix bacon and eggs on a hotplate every morning and never worried about them spoiling."

The players stayed in Friedman until Bryant Hall was finished in 1965. But even at that relatively early date in the history of Bama football, some of the Tide's greatest athletes had already finished their careers. "Every time I see these old halls or dorms, I think back to the great championship and Rose Bowl teams that passed through them," Harris said.

**T**HE APARTMENT where newly-weds Paul and Mary Harmon Bryant lived—After completing his playing career (and convincing the campus beauty queen to marry him), Bryant served as an assistant on Frank Thomas' staff from 1936 through 1939. For a brief time in 1938 the young couple lived at what is now 1102 Riverside Drive. The streets have changed since then, but it's two blocks off The Strip (North from University Boulevard) at Campus Drive.

**I**960s PRACTICE LOCKER ROOMS—Immediately after arriving at Alabama, Bryant began to systematically upgrade the facilities used by his players. Gryska related; "Coach Bryant always used to say, 'Show your class. We're going to travel first-class and play first-class.'" Recognizing the need for a better practice space with room to grow, Bryant moved the team a block and a half Southeast to the present practice fields. At the time, except for the small swimming pool, much of the area was undeveloped. In fact, where Coleman Coliseum (which was known as Memorial Coliseum from 1968 until 1988) stands today was then a cornfield. But though rearranged a bit, the fields themselves are in the same area. (Incidentally, most of the land used by the athletics department for what became known as Thomas Field and which includes the football practice areas and the baseball field were donated to The University by Coach Frank Thomas.)

Students and faculty and later the swim team used the Natatorium itself, but a foot-





Although the small building behind the Natatorium is now a student weight room, Tommy Brooker, a star football player for Alabama in the early 1960s, remembers when it was a modern new locker room for Bama players. It was just a short walk from the locker room (and Coach Bryant's practice office) to the practice fields. Barry Fikes Photo

ball locker room area was added on to the back. "It was nicer than before," Brooker said. "It might have still been concrete block, but the blocks were painted. It was cleaner, and the showers worked a lot better, too."

It was 1960 when Bryant moved his team to the new facilities. And for the next several years until Coleman was built the modest building saw athletes like Pat Trammel, Billy Neighbors, Joe Namath, and Lee Roy Jordan walk the 20 or so yards directly from the locker rooms to their practice fields. Today, desks and a chalkboard occupy what was once the freshman locker room, and a student weight room takes up much of the former varsity area. But echoes of the past remain fresh.

**C**OACH BRYANT'S PRACTICE OFFICE—Just inside the double doors leading to the old practice locker rooms, an area to the left is the entrance to Bryant's practice office. It's occupied by maintenance today, but in the 1960s the Spartan area was used by the greatest head coach in college football history every day. "It was a little old office," Gyska said.

"That's where Coach Bryant would meet with the press. After practice, he'd go to where the assistant coaches dressed and talk a minute to see if there was something he needed to know. Then he'd go back and talk to the reporters. Usually just a few, the *Tuscaloosa News*, *Crimson-White* and maybe a Birmingham paper—but he met with them every day after practice."

By the mid-1960s Crimson Tide football was on a roll. Under Coach Bryant's leadership, in quick succession Alabama athletics completed Bryant Hall—at the time known as the Taj Mahal of athletic dorms and dubbed "The Bear Bryant Hilton" in a special feature in *Sports Illustrated*—and Coleman Coliseum, which provided new facilities for the team. The coaching offices in Moore Hall were all moved to plush accommodations on Coleman's second floor. The team equipment rooms, training facilities and locker areas found modern homes in the coliseum's basement.

Even the old third-floor gym, where the athletes sweated away their off-seasons in preparation for football, found a new home. Known as the 'lower gym' by the players, Coleman's sub-basement would soon gain a

torture-chamber reputation of its own. The area included a full-size basketball court and handball courts. Following Bryant's death, the huge budget surplus accumulated by the Athletics Department during his tenure as athletics director was used to build the present Football Complex and Indoor Practice Facility, giving Coleman over entirely to basketball, gymnastics and other sports.

Though they're mostly used for purposes other than football now, the old facilities still contain memories of championships past. Their spare tile walls speak of the athletes who have gone before. The worn stairs still bear the marks of their cleats. And storied voices still echo.

"Coach Bryant told us that if you do the little things and do them every day, then I guarantee that when you're a senior you'll be national champions," said Brooker, unconsciously fingering his 1961 championship ring as he spoke. "Those were big words. He knew what he was talking about. We didn't. But he convinced us to do those extra things. We ate it, breathed it, and lived it every day.

"And some of us still do it right now."



## Men's Basketball:

# Talented, But Lack Big Men

by Kirk McNair

Gottfried's fourth Tide team will rely on guards

Many think in terms of a basketball team having two guards (point and wing), two forwards (strong and quick), and a center. A large number of teams play with a slightly different variation, a point guard, two wing players who are hybrid types, guard-forward designees, and two post players, usually a high post man and a low post man.

Mark Gottfried, the head men's basketball coach at Alabama, is having to think of new line-up combinations as the Crimson Tide prepares for the start of the 2001-02 season. That's not because Bama doesn't have skill or experience at every position. In fact, Alabama returns five starters from last year's team that went 25-11 and reached the NIT finals.

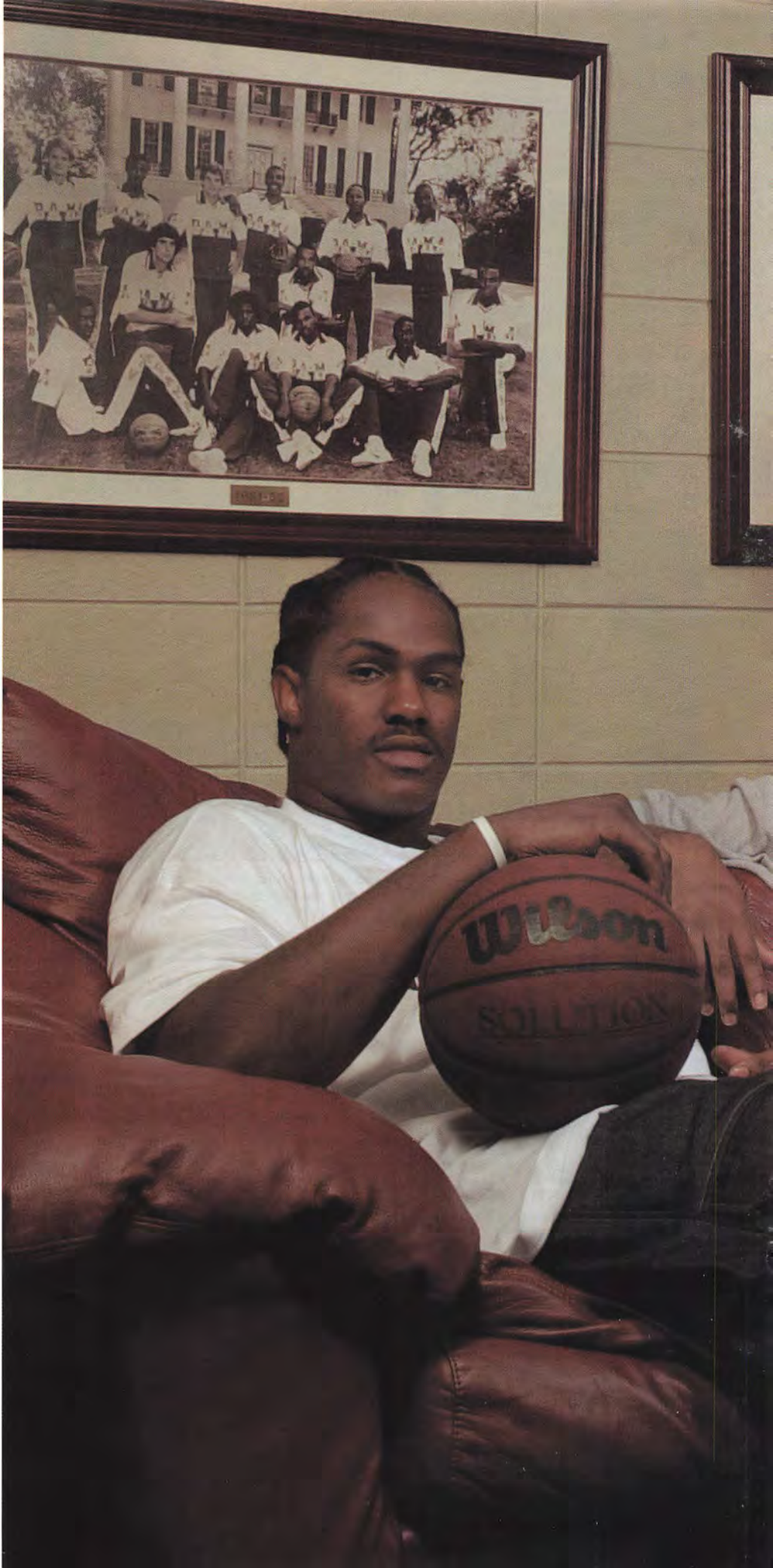
Returning starters, all juniors, are power forward Erwin Dudley (6-8, 260), center Kenny Walker (6-9, 230), wing Rod Grizzard (6-8, 207), wing Terrance Meade (6-2, 190), and point guard Travis Stinnett (6-0, 164).

Alabama had the nation's youngest Top 25 squad last year with five starting sophomores. "We have experience," Gottfried said. "Our first year we played with what had been left. The next year we played with almost all freshmen. Last year we were almost all sophomores. Now things are a lot different for us."

Gottfried said that at the end of last season

Alabama can expect to be ranked reasonably high in pre-season polls owing to the return of all five starters from last year. When Bama begins practice on October 13, the first team will be made up of returnees (left to right): Front—Erwin Dudley, Terrance Meade, and Kenny Walker; and, Back—Travis Stinnett and Rod Grizzard.

Barry Fikes Photo











Alabama guard play, which has been inconsistent at times, should get a boost from two of the nation's top prep prospects from a year ago. The Tide welcomes point guard Maurice "Mo" Williams (left) and Earnest Shelton, both of whom earned high school All-America honors. Barry Fikes Photo

and following spring recruiting, "I thought we had depth everywhere." And he wasn't even thinking about the possibility of Gerald Wallace returning. Wallace, a top substitute for the Tide last year, took his one year of college experience to the NBA draft and was rewarded by being a first round selection. Gottfried also knew that Bama would not be likely to enroll junior college transfer Kei Madison from Montevallo.

But the coach was very surprised to get a telephone call in early July from Sam Haginas with Haginas saying he would not be back, that he was going to Greece to play professionally. Haginas, who had briefly quit the team in 2000, had been told by Gottfried that he was going to get his best chance since his freshman season to contribute this year. Haginas was a 6-8, 240-pounder who was going to be counted on for major minutes at the two inside positions.

Gottfried got his second unpleasant surprise when it was learned that junior college transfer Rodney Bias (6-9, 225) did not successfully complete his academic require-

ments at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa. Bias, a native of Livingston, was one of the nation's top junior college rebounders last season.

"Now we have questions," Gottfried said.

With the losses to graduation (and all five of Bama's seniors in 2000-01 did earn their degrees), Alabama has returning starters Dudley and Walker and little-used soph Reggie Rambo (6-7, 218) for the post spots. "Obviously, we are very thin around the basket," Gottfried said. He said there is a possibility that signee Lucky Williams might be eligible. Although there have been reports that he is going to be only a partial qualifier, thus not eligible for games, Gottfried said that issue has not been finalized. Williams is a native of Nigeria who played at Central Park Christian in Birmingham last year. Still, Williams is only 6-4, 200, but does have a 6-10 wingspan.

"We'll have to find a way," Gottfried said. "Two years ago we were counting on Jeremy Hays to be our big guy inside and he got hurt and missed the season. Then we were

counting on him again last year and he wasn't able to play. So this year we're again stepping in with a shortened roster."

So short that Solomon Davis, a 6-6, 210-pound senior who was a walk-on with the program two years ago, has been brought back this year. Davis is expected to be used primarily as a "preparation player." Because of his previous experience he will be familiar with practice routines, nomenclature, etc.

**A**labama does have depth, experience and skill at the guard spots. "We might be playing three guards—not counting Rod—a lot this year," Gottfried said. "So there's a chance that at times we'll appear to have a four-guard line-up. We have to get away from conventional positions."

The difficulty of so many guards is on defense. But, Gottfried said, "Although Rod is listed as a guard, he's a natural small forward who can buy us some minutes inside." And that's just one way the Bama coach expects the guards to pick up the team this year.

Last year Irwin Dudley led the Southeastern Conference with 10 rebounds per game (to go with his 14.4 points per game) and was second team All-SEC. Gottfried said, "Our guards are going to have to rebound this year. We have to find some players to take the pressure off Irwin. He'll be a great rebounder every night, but he can't get every rebound by himself. Kenny Walker played very well at the end of last year and he needs to step it up more this year. (Walker averaged 6.7 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last year.) Reggie Rambo has an opportunity and he needs to be ready."

But, the coach said, "As we begin practice the first priority is going to be how we defend around the basket. That's going to involve the guards. We may have them playing down. We may play more zone than we would like to. We may try to use our press to keep the pressure off our inside."

"I don't want to see 40 minutes of our opponent pounding the ball inside. I know that Irwin and Kenny are going to be in foul trouble sometime, so this becomes a big issue for us."

Bama would seem to have a wealth of guards, not including Grizzard, who averaged 17 points and 6.1 rebounds per game and was first team All-SEC last year. The returning starters are Meade (10.8 points) and Stinnett (6.8). Bama also returns Antoine Pettway (6-0, 170), a walk-on who has been awarded a scholarship after his freshman campaign in which he averaged 2.9 points



per game. Also back at guard is Demetrius Smith, a 6-3 sophomore who was limited throughout last season with injuries. Gottfried expects Smith to be a very pleasant surprise to Tide followers after rehabilitation and a year in the weight program.

While Bama's guards are solid, it has been many years since Bama has had a legitimate all-star candidate at a traditional guard spot. It's true that Stinnett had some big moments last year, including a 17-point performance off the bench in a win over Auburn and a career-best 22 points in the first round of the NIT against Seton Hall. Now Alabama has two guards who come in with prep All-America credentials.

Earnest Shelton, 6-2, 190, is a wing guard who averaged 27 points per game as a senior and who is a three-shot marksman from Memphis, where he played at White Station High School. Maurice "Mo" Williams, 6-1, 185, was a McDonald's All-America and winner of the three-point contest at the McDonald's All-America game. He averaged 26.9 points and 9.0 assists his senior season at Murrah High School in Jackson, Mississippi.

Gottfried said, "With Earnest and Mo and a healthy Demetrius Smith added in with Travis Stinnett, Terrance Meade and Antoine Pettway, our backcourt is very solid and very deep."

The coach said, "We'll need to use our guard play to open the floor up and we'll press more. But games always come down to the ability to execute the half court game on both offense and defense, whether man or zone."

**B**ama will begin practice with a "Midnight Madness" show that will start about 10:30 p.m. Friday, October 12. The actual appearance of players will be at midnight. The first meaningful practice will be held Saturday, October 13.

There will be at least one public scrimmage, on the morning of Alabama's football game against Tennessee on October 20.

The Tide will have two exhibition games on November 1 and November 8 then start the season very early, hosting first round play in the Guardians Classic. Alabama will play Mississippi Valley State November 13 and either Samford or Loyola Marymount on November 14. Three other schools—Missouri, Iowa and Memphis—are hosting first and second round games. The four winners of those regional tournaments will advance to Kansas City for the semifinals on November 20 and finals on November 21.

A few years ago NCAA rules were changed

to allow some individual instruction in the off-season. Tide players have been working in small groups with the entire staff. "We do a lot of teaching, so we'll know how we're going to play with a smaller line-up," Gottfried said. "We've spent a lot of time on shooting and skill work."

The coaching staff includes two new men, Orlando Early and T.R. Dunn. Early was hired from North Carolina-Charlotte. Gottfried said, "He had a great reputation as a recruiter, but he does a real good job on the floor also."

Dunn is well-known to long-time Alabama followers, having been one of the Tide's greatest players in the mid-1970s. "The players are excited because he played in the NBA for 14 years, but I'm excited because he coached in the NBA for eight years," Gottfried said. "He brings a lot of new ideas. He's a real asset."

**A**labama is not likely to have to apologize for its schedule this year, but Gottfried didn't think that was the case a year ago, either. Nevertheless, when the NCAA Tournament Selection Committee met, it made a point to omit Alabama—a team that had been ranked in the nation's top 25 for 14 weeks—from the 64-team tournament based on the Tide's non-conference schedule.

"That was frustrating," Gottfried said. "Before the season if you had told me that we would have 21 wins (before tacking on four more in the NIT), beat Louisville by 29 points (100-71), Ole Miss by 19 (82-63), Kentucky by 10 (70-60), and Ohio State by 18 (85-67), I think everyone would have said

we would be in the tournament. The committee took a shot at us for our non-conference schedule, but I really think that if we had been 9-7 instead of 8-8 in conference games, we would have been in. And we had our chances. We could have beaten Arkansas (63-66) or Vanderbilt (62-68) or Auburn in Auburn (69-72) and we didn't get it done."

Gottfried added, "We've got to eliminate the selection committee from the process. And that means we've got to be more determined and play better."

And the schedule has been beefed up, particularly the road schedule. Alabama will meet UCLA in the John Wooden Classic in Anaheim, California; Temple in the Jimmy V Classic at the Meadowlands in New Jersey; and Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl Classic in New Orleans. The highlight of the non-conference home schedule is a meeting with Utah on November 26.

The schedule includes 13 teams who were in post-season play last year and there is a chance that Bama could meet two more such squads if Bama reaches the semifinals of the Guardians Classic Tournament.

"This schedule isn't a reaction to what the NCAA Selection Committee did," Gottfried said. "This was the schedule we thought this team would need as juniors. It's always been the plan to give them more of a challenge as they've grown up."

The Tide coach said the schedule would also mean a great deal of national television coverage. "That's good exposure for our program and our university and it excites our players."



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# Tide Will Rely On Three-Pointers

by Donna Fromme

Coach Rick Moody wants to get Bama back into championship contention this season

**D**uring the formative years of Rick Moody's career as head coach of the Alabama women's basketball team, he powered his Crimson Tide teams with guards. Moody made the three-point shot Bama's trademark to a degree the Tide led the nation in that statistic. His strategy of guard-heavy play and shooting the trey is what led Alabama to the 1994 Final Four.

Meanwhile, Moody's rosters began to include more height as he sought to build the type squad that could match up with teams such as Tennessee, Connecticut and Stanford, the teams that were dominating the national scene and the teams Alabama had to be able to contend with both in the Southeastern Conference and in post-season play. Thus, the Tide's game moved more toward inside play. Again, Alabama prospered. In fact, be it powered by the guards or inside players, Moody's Alabama teams advanced to eight straight NCAA tournaments from 1992 through 1999.

In its last two seasons, fluke injuries to key players snapped the string of NCAA trips and sent the Tide to back-to-back WNIT appearances. That turn of events, combined with Moody's drive to keep Alabama among the higher echelon of programs in the country, will find Alabama and Moody taking a step back in time, but a step that fueled its future. He's going back to the three-point shot.

Moody said, "The key to the success of our team this year is whether the young people we have coming in can make an impact on our basketball team. We have six new players this season. That is not to say that we don't have good players coming back, because we do. We have a lot of skill and experience in Shondra Johnson, Shun Hunter, LaNisha Cartwell, and Beth Vice, all quality players.

"But to implement the style of play I want, I have to go back to my roots," Moody said. "We're extending our defense and shooting threes, lots and lots of threes, and trying to establish quality depth that I believe in the past was the difference in our teams that were really good. That's what I'm eager to

see, whether they're able to come in there and play with the kind of confidence and maturity so that they can be significant contributors."

The 2001-02 version of the Crimson Tide will have many new looks, most notably because Alabama welcomes a half dozen new players, five freshmen and one transfer. Heading the list is a guard, Birmingham's Donyel Wheeler, the 2001 Miss Basketball in the State of Alabama. Alabama is also gaining Starkville, Mississippi, native Jamilah Johns, a 6-4 center who has transferred to Alabama from LSU.

The players he will be counting on to make those three-point shots include Vice, a junior who made 70 of 201 three-point shots last season and averaged 10.4 points a game. Moody said he also expects three-point bombardment from a trio of freshmen guards, including Wheeler, Monique Bivins (Thompson High School), and Katie Sipe (Coffee County, Tennessee, High School).

"The people who would make that style of play most effective are young people, so that's going to be important for us to see really early, whether or not they are ready to play," said Moody.

**A**labama's 2001 team finished the season 19-12. Lost from that team are 2001 seniors, both starters, guard Nicole Carruth and forward Joni Crenshaw. Despite injuries, Crenshaw started in 27 of Alabama's 31 games, sitting out three games with an ankle injury. She averaged 7.3 points and 5.9 rebounds. Carruth, who averaged 8.2 points, started 23 games, missing five games with foot injuries.

"I think what we lost last year more than any other ingredient was leadership," Moody said. "Nicole's injury situation, her entire career, you never really knew day-to-day whether you were going to be able to utilize her. And then Joni, because of her injuries, missed significant amounts of practice time and some games last year. But those two were a stabilizing force in the dressing room. So that's one area I've tried to take a more active role personally in devel-

oping and communicating to people who are in leadership positions—what is expected of them and what traits they need to demonstrate as leaders."

Because Alabama does not begin team practice until the NCAA-mandated starting date of October 13, it is too soon for Moody to determine if any of the new players will immediately step in as a starter. But he does know what he has coming back and believes they'll work hard to keep their starting spots.

"We've got three guards who started coming back," he said. "Shondra (Johnson), Beth (Vice) and Shun (Hunter). Then you have LaNisha (Cartwell) and you also have (forward) Sparkle Smith and (forward) Leigh Papisan who have significant playing experience. And they understand going in what is expected. The new people can't know that yet. I'm going to do whatever is best to create the chemistry that I feel comfortable with. And if that means that people who started games last year come off the bench, so be it. I'm going in it with a very open mind. These are anybody's positions to win."

Moody says Alabama's strength this season will lie in its depth.

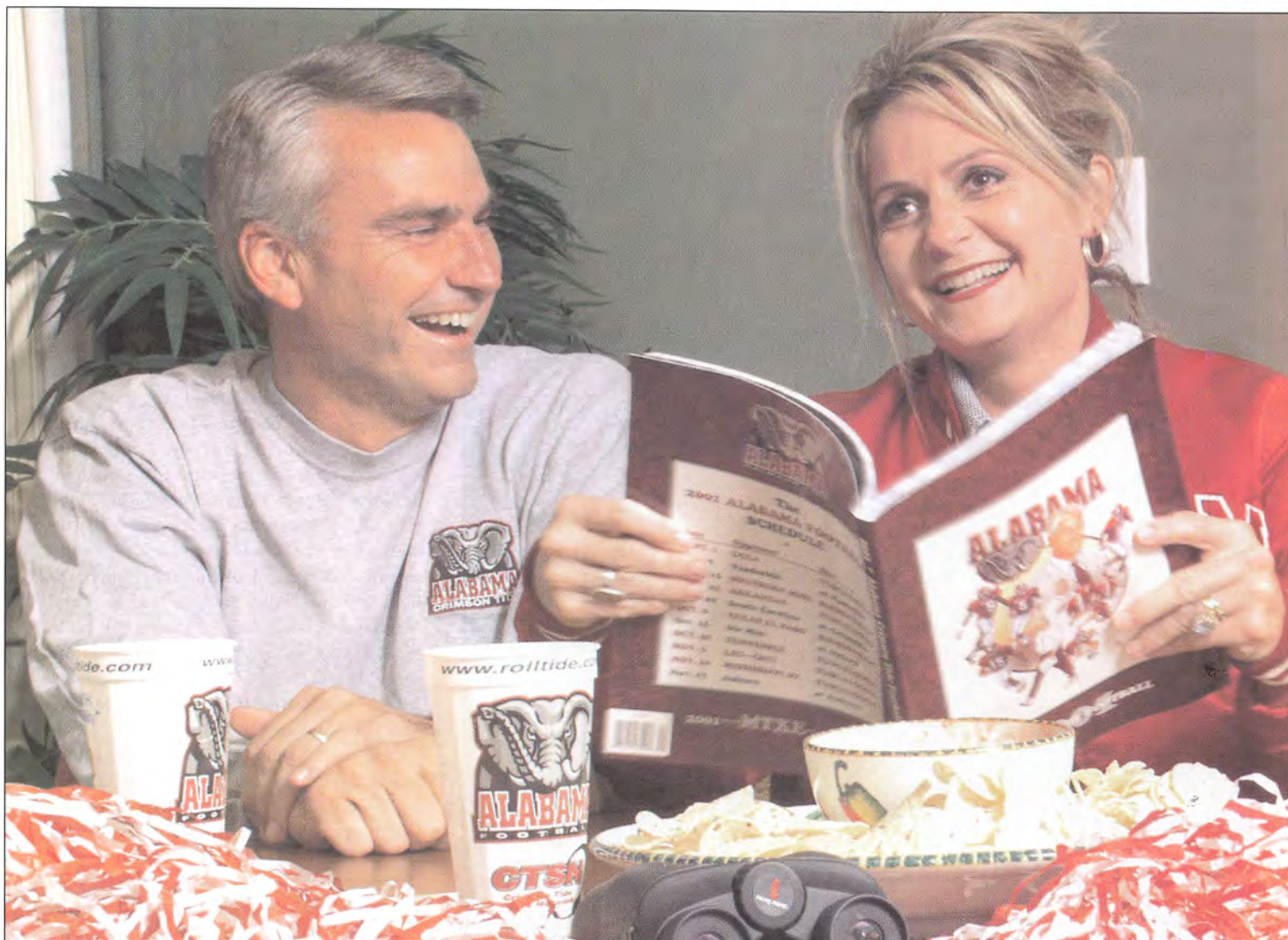
"I think we have a significant number of really good players who have different strengths and different weaknesses and who complement one another in the ability to step in and cover for one another," he said.

Moody said, "I think we have an inside player who has proven she can score in LaNisha Cartwell (11.5 points per game on 51.4 per cent field goal shooting, plus 6.1 rebounds per game). Last year she really grew up a lot and hopefully she'll continue to improve this year. She's a big-time post player. Shondra Johnson needs to continue her maturity process as does Beth Vice. Shun Hunter had significant experience last year as well. Those people will be the strengths of our basketball team. We should be able to play with more confidence, with a greater understanding of what it takes to win in the Southeastern Conference."

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Although much of the attention is on newcomers, this year's Alabama women's basketball team will certainly be relying on the talents of proven performers like guard Shondra Johnson as Bama tries to shoot its way back into the national spotlight this season.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley

year, Moody's primary concern is whether those returning "are willing to do what is necessary on and off the floor, if they are willing to demonstrate that character, that passion for the game, that passion to play together. It goes back to leadership and

what sacrifices people are willing to make for the betterment of the team."

**A**labama's schedule, in addition to the annual challenge of playing in a conference that advanced nine teams to

the post-season, will include a tour of duty in the state. The official opener is at home on November 16 when Bama hosts Samford, and that's followed by a home date on November 20 to host Troy State. At home it will also host South Alabama on December 9. Alabama will travel to three other in-state non-conference sites, playing at Birmingham Southern on November 27, at Alabama State on December 5, and at Jacksonville State on December 18.

"The idea behind going to these other schools is to expose fans in those areas and to help increase our fan base; create more interest across the state of Alabama for the Alabama women's basketball program."

Tournament play will find the team in Malibu, California, for the Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic where the field includes Conference USA Champion Louisville, Pepperdine and William & Mary, as well as at the December 21-22 Cancun (Mexico) Basketball Tournament, where the field includes SMU, Eastern Michigan and Maryland. A week later the Tide will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, participating in the Villanova Wildcat Classic on December 29-30, where the field includes Massachusetts, Villanova and Rider.

SEC teams coming to Tuscaloosa include Auburn (January 24), Vanderbilt (January 17), Kentucky (January 6), Arkansas (February 3), Mississippi State (February 7), Ole Miss (February 17) and LSU (February 24).

Meanwhile Moody is counting down the days before he and his team hit the court for the first time all together to see if this will be the team that takes Alabama back to the NCAA tournament.

"It's very difficult during the month of September to really focus on your team because the September recruiting period is a very busy time," said Moody. "Recruiting consumes so much of your thinking. I find myself looking forward to the end of the recruiting period so that I can focus on my team. I feel really at peace with this team coming back because they've demonstrated the qualities that I believe provide the chemistry to make for a successful team. We've seen this in their conditioning and in their individual workouts. They've demonstrated a team effort. Everybody is holding one another accountable to do what they are supposed to do and what they are capable of doing to help the team. And that's exciting to me. I hope that they can take that into the season."



# Alabama Basketball Rosters, Schedules

## 2001-02 Men's Roster

No	Name, Pos	Ht	Wt	Cl	Exp	Hometown
3	Solomon Davis, F	6-6	210	Sr	1L	Mobile
4	Reggie Rambo, F	6-7	218	So	1L	Lena, La.
5	Earnest Shelton, G	6-2	190	Fr	HS	Memphis
13	Lucky Williams, F/G	6-4	200	Fr	HS	Lagos, Nigeria
14	Terrance Meade, G	6-2	190	Jr	2L	Scottsboro
21	Rod Grizzard, F/G	6-8	205	Jr	2L	Birmingham
22	Travis Stinnett, G	6-0	170	Jr	1L	Maryville, Tenn.
23	Demetrius Smith, G	6-3	215	So	1L	Hogansville, Ga.
25	Maurice Williams, G	6-1	183	Fr	HS	Jackson, Miss.
35	Erwin Dudley, F/C	6-8	260	Jr	2L	Uniontown
42	Kenny Walker, C/F	6-9	230	Jr	2L	Jacksonville, Fla.
50	Antoine Pettway, G	6-0	170	So	1L	Alberta

Head Coach: Mark Gottfried

Assistants: Philip Pearson, T.R. Dunn, Orlando Early

## 2001-02 Women's Roster

No	Name, Pos	Ht	Cl	Exp	Hometown
2	Donyel Wheeler, G	6-3	Fr	HS	Birmingham
4	Sparkle Smith, F	5-11	Sr	1L	Detroit
10	Mivvi Strickland, F	6-1	Fr	HS	Vestavia Hills
11	Shun Hunter, F	5-11	Jr	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
15	Manisha Redus, G	5-7	So	1L	Decatur
20	Beth Vice, G	5-11	Jr	1L	Mt. Sterling, Ky.
21	Shondra Johnson, G	5-9	Sr	3L	New Orleans
22	Capper Reed, G	5-4	So	1L	Guntersville
23	Oreal Taylor, F	5-10	So	1L	Courtland
24	Monique Bivins, G	5-9	Fr	HS	Alabaster
25	Katie Sipe, G	5-10	Fr	HS	Hillsboro, Tenn.
32	Natasha Gamble, F/C	6-0	Fr	HS	Jackson
34	Leigh Papisan, F/C	6-1	Jr	2L	Hoover
42	Jamilah Johns, C	6-4	Jr	Tr	Starkville, Miss.
45	LaNisha Cartwell, C	6-2	Sr	3L	Montevallo

Head Coach: Rick Moody

Assistants: Brittney Ezell, C.C. Moorer, Mike Murphy

## 2001-02 Men's Schedule

Date	Opponent	Central Time
Nov. 1	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 8	EA Sports (Exh.)	7:00
	Guardians Classic	
Nov. 13	Mississippi Valley St	TBA
Nov. 14	Samford or Loyola Marymount	TBA
Nov. 20	Semifinals @ Kansas City	TBA
Nov. 21	Finals @ Kansas City	TBA
Nov. 26	Utah (ESPN2)	6:00
Nov. 29	McNeese State	7:00
Dec. 3	Chattanooga (Fox)	7:00
	John Wooden Classic	
Dec. 8	UCLA @ Anaheim, Calif. (Fox)	6:00
Dec. 14	Jacksonville State	7:00
	Jimmy V Classic	
Dec. 18	Temple @ Meadowlands, N.J. (ESPN)	6:00
Dec. 21	Alabama A&M	7:00
	Sugar Bowl Classic	
Dec. 27	Notre Dame @ New Orleans (Fox)	7:00
Dec. 31	Florida A&M	TBA
Jan. 2	Bethune-Cookman	7:00
Jan. 5	LSU	TBA
Jan. 9	Vanderbilt	7:00
Jan. 12	@ Auburn	1:00
Jan. 16	@ Georgia (J-P)	7:00
Jan. 19	Mississippi State	TBA
Jan. 26	@ Kentucky (ESPN)	7:00
Jan. 30	Arkansas	TBA
Feb. 2	@ LSU	TBA
Feb. 6	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 9	@ Mississippi State	TBA
Feb. 13	@ South Carolina	7:00
Feb. 16	Tennessee	TBA
Feb. 20	@ Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 23	Florida	TBA
Feb. 27	Auburn	7:00
Mar. 3	@ Ole Miss (CBS)	1:00

## 2001-02 Women's Schedule

Date	Opponent	Central Time
Nov. 5	Basketball Travelers (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 11	Sports International (Exh.)	4:00
Nov. 16	Samford	7:00
Nov. 20	Troy State	7:00
	Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic @ Malibu, Calif.	
Nov. 23	Louisville	9:00
Nov. 24	Pepperdine or William & Mary	TBA
Nov. 27	@ Birmingham-Southern	TBA
Dec. 2	@ Providence	TBA
Dec. 5	@ Alabama State	TBA
Dec. 9	South Alabama	2:00
Dec. 18	@ Jacksonville State	7:00
Dec. 21-22	@ Cancun, Mexico, Basketball Tournament (SMU, Eastern Michigan, Maryland)	TBA
	Villanova Tournament	
Dec. 29	Massachusetts	TBA
Dec. 30	Villanova or Rider	TBA
Jan. 6	Kentucky	2:00
Jan. 10	@ Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 13	@ Florida	TBA
Jan. 17	Vanderbilt	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Tennessee	TBA
Jan. 24	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 27	@ Kentucky	1:00
Feb. 3	Arkansas (Fox)	2:00
Be. 7	Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 10	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 14	@ South Carolina	TBA
Feb. 17	Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 21	@ Georgia	TBA
Feb. 24	LSU	2:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament @ Nashville	TBA
Mar. 3	Gaylord Entertainment Center	



# Two In-State Stars Head Wish List

by Tim Watts

### Bama hopes for success in early signing period

The early signing period was very successful last year for Alabama Head Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried and his staff. Bama solidified its backcourt for the future by signing All-America point guard Maurice Williams of Jackson, Mississippi, and highly-regarded shooting guard Earnest Shelton from Memphis, Tennessee. However, the news was not all good as big men signees Rodney Bias and Kei Madison failed to gain eligibility. Added to that, inside players Gerald Wallace and Sam Haginas made early departures for professional basketball, Wallace to the NBA, Haginas to Europe.

It is for this reason that the Alabama staff has turned their attention to the 2002 recruiting class in the hopes of signing a few quality big men who can give their team added depth in the front court. The Tide has two scholarships available and could sign up to four. The week-long early signing period for winter and spring sports begins November 7.

Several highly regarded big men throughout the South have mentioned the Crimson Tide during the summer evaluation period. As luck would have it two of the better forward prospects in the nation reside in their home state. Those players Kennedy Winston from Blount High School in Mobile and Chuck Davis from Southside High School in Selma have both shown interest in signing with Alabama.

Winston, a 6-7 small forward, averaged 25 points and eight rebounds a game while leading his team to the class 5A state championship last year. He shoots well from outside the three-point line and also possesses a nice mid-range jumper. He handles the ball well for a big man and loves to penetrate and finish strongly. He carries a 3.0 grade point average and is expected to qualify. He lists Alabama, Auburn, California, Cincinnati, and Georgetown as his favorites.

Last season Davis, a 6-8 power forward, led his team to a 25-4 record and the state playoffs where they lost to the eventual 5A champions. He averaged 25 points, 11 rebounds, and an impressive eight blocked shots per game. Davis has the ability to step out on the perimeter and make the 18-foot jump shot as well as the skills to post up down low. He is a very good defender and with his long arms creates trouble for op-



Kennedy Winston



Chuck Davis

posing players. Davis is also an excellent student boasting a 3.7 GPA and 21 ACT score and he is already qualified. Alabama appears to be his early favorite with LSU, Georgia Tech, and Vanderbilt also under consideration.

Gabe Kennedy, from Beville State Community College, is another in-state player who is receiving interest from Alabama. Kennedy, a 6-9 power forward, is a former teammate of current Tide player Antoine Pettway. During their senior campaigns they teamed up to lead Central-Wilcox High School to the Alabama 6A state championship. Last year Kennedy earned honorable mention junior college All-America honors while averaging 19.8 points and 11.6 rebounds per game.

Due to depth at the point guard position the Tide did not actively pursue two highly regarded in-state prospects. Chadd Moore originally from Lee high school in Huntsville and Jeremy Monceaux from Parkway Christian in Birmingham. Moore, who transferred this year to legendary Oak Hill Academy in Virginia, committed to Cincinnati during the summer. Monceaux suffered a serious injury this summer while playing summer ball with the Tallahassee Wildcats. He is expected to recover fully by December and is currently considering Auburn, North Carolina State, and other ACC and SEC schools.

Other in-state players who have been linked by various sources to Alabama include Quincy Davis, 6-8 center from McGill-Toolen in Mobile, and James Lang, 6-10 center who plans to prep at Central Park Christian this season. Tedrick Hill, a 6-10 center from Montgomery, has been listed in a few publications as a top 100 prospect, but he does not appear to be a likely prospect for the upcoming recruiting year.

In the past, Tide coaches have recruited the surrounding states of Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee hard and have enjoyed some success. This year as many as six prospects from those three states have caught the eye of the Crimson Tide staff.

Two of the better players in the state of Georgia, Chris Ellis and Evan Brock, have early shown interest in playing at The Capstone.

Ellis is a 6-8 power forward from Marietta. Last season for the Blue Devils he averaged 15 points, 13 rebounds, and three blocked shots per game. He is blessed with a strong physique and uses his strength underneath the basket to score in the low post and grab rebounds. He planned to have in-home visits with Alabama, Georgia, Florida State, Clemson, Ohio State, Wake Forest, and Boston College during September, then narrow his list to five schools. He carries a 3.0 GPA and has scored a 960 on the SAT.

Brock is a 6-9 big forward from Lassiter High School in Marietta. He is a lanky player who is capable of shooting the outside shot or using his long body to post up in the lane. His versatility helped his stock rise during the summer while playing for the Georgia Jazz. Last year at Lassiter he averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds per contest. He lists Alabama, Clemson, Mississippi State, Wake Forest, and Central Florida.

Julian Terrell a 6-9 power forward from Ezell-Harding High School, is another player who saw his stock soar during the summer AAU season. While playing for the Tennessee Travelers he impressed college scouts with his soft hands and strong inside play. Last year Terrell averaged 17 points, 13 rebounds, and five blocked shots per game. Having scored 19 on his first ACT attempt and carrying a 3-plus GPA he is qualified. After spurning offers from Kentucky and Ohio State, he has decided to choose between Alabama, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt.

The top player in the Sunshine State is Rashad Anderson and early indications have Bama as one of the top colleges on his list. Anderson is a 6-5 shooting guard who plays at Kathleen High School in Tallahassee, where last season he averaged 24 points, seven rebounds, and four assists per contest. He made his reputation on long range shooting but is a solid ball handler and defender as well. He carries a 3.3 GPA and is expected to qualify. Connecticut is believed to be the early leader with Alabama, Florida State, Kentucky, Miami, South Florida, and Tennessee in pursuit.

Other prospects who have been linked with Alabama are Wayne Arnold, 6-3 shooting guard from Berkmar High School in Georgia; Ike Diogu, 6-8 big forward from Garland High School in Texas; Jason Forte, a 6-4 combo guard from Bay Springs, Mississippi; Justin "Boomer" Herndon, a 6-10 center from Donelson Christian Academy in Nashville; Johnnie Jackson, a 6-5 shooting guard from Memphis; Aliou Kane, 6-11 center from Blue Ridge High School in Virginia; and Theodis Tarver, 6-9 center from Carroll High School in Louisiana.



# A Look At Skill Prospects in State

by James Edwards

## Alabama prep teams have large number of excellent skill position players

Although coaches and (particularly) linemen are quick to point out that it takes great skill to play every position on the football field, the designation "skill player" has evolved into a description of those most likely to score points. They are the offensive and defensive backs, wide receivers, and the real specialists, the kickers.

And while it may be true that it takes as much skill to play offensive guard as it does to play tailback, the attention of the football fan is usually on the man with the ball, not the man blocking for him. For that reason, there is great interest in the recruiting battles for the high-profile skill position players.

This year's group of quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, defensive backs and kickers in Alabama high schools includes a number who are drawing the attention of college recruiters, including those of the Crimson Tide. Indeed, Bama already has commitments from a handful of these stars. A commitment is not binding and signing day is not until February 6, 2002, but it is usually easier to hold on to committed players than it is to entice a player committed to another school to renege on that pledge.

Based on most recruiting rankings, this year skill position players make up six of the top 10, 12 of the top 20, and 19 of the top 30 prep prospects in Alabama. It is possible that some of these will not be top prospects at the end of the season, and it is also likely that some new prospects will have emerged.

Here, listed alphabetically by position (including a handful of versatile performers listed just as "Athlete"), are the top skill players in the state:

### Quarterback

Stephen Allison is a 6-2, 187-pound, 4.5 (40-yard dash time) quarterback/defensive back from North Jackson High School in Stevenson. He is athletic enough to play several positions, but would like to play quarterback in college. He had 91 carries for 640 yards and six touchdowns as a junior. He completed 52 passes of 101 attempts (57 per cent) for 716 yards and five touchdowns and suffered no interceptions. He led his team to the second round of the playoffs. He was selected all-region and honorable mention all-state. He is also a standout baseball player who batted .391 with five home runs and a

2-1 pitching record with a 2.91 ERA. He has camped at Tennessee and Jacksonville State. He benches 280, squats 575, and power cleans 270. He has a 3.6 GPA and a 19 ACT. He is interested in Alabama, Auburn, Nebraska, Tennessee, and UAB.

Brandon Avalos, 6-2, 176, 4.6, Hillcrest in Tuscaloosa, is the state's number one run/pass quarterback prospect. He committed to Alabama over Nebraska, Purdue, Virginia Tech, Clemson, and Georgia Tech. He started his career as a sophomore wide receiver and caught 49 passes for over 700 yards and five touchdowns while becoming the school's first Class 6A all-state player. He moved to quarterback as a junior and completed 58 passes of 120 attempts for 1120 yards and eight touchdowns. He also rushed 67 times for 468 yards and six touchdowns. He was selected to the All-West Alabama Team and nominated for Class 6A Back of the Year. He is also a standout baseball player (centerfield) who had a baseball scholarship offer from Alabama. He batted .400 with three home runs as a junior. He has a 33-inch vertical jump. He benches 275, power

cleans 230, squats 405, and deadlifts 355. He carries a 3.1 GPA and scored 19 on the ACT.

Brett Borden, 6-0, 190, 4.6 quarterback/defensive back, Phil Campbell, has good arm strength and also is a physical runner. He passed for 2,300 yards and 25 touchdowns, while rushing for 850 yards and 12 touchdowns. He plays sparingly at free safety in close games and managed four interceptions. He was all-state and a finalist for the 3A Player of the Year as a junior. He was selected the 1A-3A *Florence Times-Daily* Player of the Year. He has attended Bowden Academy, Montgomery Combine, and the Lamonde Russell School of Football. He sports a 27-inch vertical jump, 3.0 GPA, and 18 ACT. He benches 300 and squats 350. He is interested in Alabama, Auburn, Southern Miss, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, and UAB.

Patrick Byrne, 6-2, 185, 4.7 quarterback/place-kicker, T.R. Miller in Brewton was the field leader for the Class 4A state champions and a player who will be recruited as a quarterback and field goal kicker. He made all-state as a punter after averaging 39 yards. At quarterback, he completed 103

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passes of 184 attempts (56 per cent) for 1,636 yards, with eight interceptions, and nine touchdowns. As a junior field goal kicker, he was seven of 13 with a long of 47 yards. He was 60 of 63 on extra points, and 70 per cent of his kickoffs were touchbacks. For his career, he is 16 of 27 on field goals entering his senior year. He has attended Bowden Academy, Montgomery Combine, Ray Guy Kicking Camp, Manning Quarterback Camp, Alabama and Auburn kicking camps. His father, Brad Byrne, played for Southern Miss. He benches 190 and squats 300 (10 times). He lists Southern Miss, LSU, Auburn, Alabama, Vanderbilt, and Arkansas.

Brandon Cox, 6-4, 185, 4.7, Hewitt Trussville, is a left-hander from the school that produced former Tide star Jay Barker. He was Class 6A Quarterback of the Year, and made all-metro. As a junior he had 184 completions of 262 attempts for 2,700 yards, 13 interceptions, and 27 touchdowns. He has camped at Auburn and LSU. He has a 3.89 GPA and made 24 on the ACT. He is considering Florida, Auburn, LSU, Tennessee, Alabama, Vanderbilt, North Carolina State, Duke, Louisville, and MTSU.

Chris Crumpton, 6-2, 195, 4.8, Hartselle, was selected his team's Offensive MVP as a junior after producing 1,500 yards passing with 11 touchdowns, and rushing for 500 yards with five touchdowns. He was all-area. He has attended camps at Southern Miss, Alabama, Ole Miss, Louisville, Kentucky, Auburn, MTSU, Chattanooga, and Bowden Academy. His uncle, Jimmy Loggins, played football at Western Kentucky, while his great uncle, Grady Elmore played at Alabama. He has a 27-inch vertical jump, a 3.2 GPA, and a 24 ACT. He benches 240, squats 340, and power cleans 225. He has committed to Southern Miss over Ole Miss, Louisville, and Clemson.

Graeme McFarland, 6-2, 195, 4.7, Mountain Brook, possesses perhaps the strongest arm of all the Alabama quarterbacks. He has only played one previous year of varsity quarterback and he produced 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns. He has camped at Alabama, Duke, Kansas, Notre Dame, Southern Miss, and Virginia. He has a 30-inch vertical jump, benches 200, squats 335, has a 3.9 GPA, 1320 SAT, and 30 ACT. His older half brother, Nathan Bland, is a professional baseball player with the San Diego Padres. Graeme is considering Kansas, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Auburn, and UAB.

Others to watch are Matt Evans, 6-0, 180, 4.5, Oak Mountain; Curtis Falany, 6-2, 200, 4.8, Vestavia Hills; Bragg Knott, 6-4, 200, 4.7, Homewood; and Justin Standridge, 6-3, 200, 4.8, Pinson Clay-Chalkville.

#### Running Back

Justin Bellamy, 5-11, 180, 4.5, Decatur Austin, previously lived and played in Georgia and Texas. As a junior he made all-area after rushing for over 800 yards and 10 touchdowns. In his first two games as a se-



Kenneth Darby

nior he had 313 yards and six touchdowns. His uncle, Steve Bellamy, played at Miles College, and his grandfather, Sam Bellamy, played at Alabama A&M and was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys. He camped at Alabama, Auburn, and UAB. He has a 36-inch vertical jump, a 2.5 GPA, and a 16 ACT. He benches 245, squats 465, and power cleans 215. He lists his interests as Auburn, Alabama, UAB, Georgia, and Georgia Tech.

Dan Burks, 6-0, 198, 4.45, Vestavia Hills in Birmingham rushed for 1369 yards on 195 carries with 19 touchdowns as a junior. He is also a good receiver and he produced three touchdowns on receptions. He averaged 38.8 yards per kickoff return with three going for touchdowns. His father, Ken Burks, played at Auburn. He made the Super All-Metro team as a junior and honorable mention all-state. He is also the state champion wrestler in the 189-pound class. He plays left field in baseball and batted .398 with two home runs. He has camped at Auburn, Alabama, and UAB. He has a 32-inch vertical jump, a 2.2 GPA, and a 300 bench press. He is interested in Auburn, Alabama, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt, and UAB.

Kenneth Darby, 5-10, 188, 4.47, Butler in Huntsville, committed to Alabama over Ole Miss, Mississippi State, LSU, Auburn and Michigan State. He is a four-year starter who made all-city three consecutive years and honorable mention all-state as a junior. He rushed for over 1,200 yards as a junior with 11 touchdowns. He also had 800 yards in pass receptions and one touchdown. He had 2,125 yards of total offense as a junior. For his career he has 3,083 yards rushing. He is also the starting linebacker on defense. He has been credited with 204 tackles over his career. He benches 315 and squats 420. He has a 2.7 GPA and made 16 on the ACT. He has attended Vanderbilt, MTSU, and Alabama camps.

Norris Drinkard, 6-1, 170, 4.4, Houston County in Columbia, is a two time all-state performer who rushed for nearly 1,500 yards as a junior with 30 touchdowns. He returned 11 punts for 375 yards and five touchdowns in the first five games. He has camped at Auburn. He favors Auburn, Alabama, Vanderbilt, and Arkansas.

Nick Luke, 6-1, 210, 4.5, Central in Phenix City, is the brother of Tide wide receiver Triandos Luke. As a junior he had 80 carries for over 600 yards with 11 touchdowns. He has also played linebacker. He has a 31-inch vertical jump and he has camped at UAB. He benches 325, squats 465, and power cleans 285. He has a 3.6 GPA and scored 19 on the ACT. He's looking at a large number of schools, including Alabama.

Greg McLain, 6-2, 221, 4.7, is a fullback/linebacker from Lineville. As a junior he rushed for 800 yards and 15 touchdowns and also had two receiving touchdowns. He is getting looks from UAB, Duke, and Southern Miss.

Travis O'Neal, 6-1, 215, 4.59, Leeds, had 148 carries for 1,076 yards as a sophomore, and surpassed that total as a junior with 1,587 yards and 14 touchdowns. He made honorable mention all-state on offense, but his collegiate future may be on the defensive side of the ball. He starts on defense at strong safety, defensive end, or linebacker depending on the opponent. He has a 31-inch vertical jump. He is the second cousin of Jamir Miller who starred at UCLA, was the first round pick of the Arizona Cardinals, and is presently with the Cleveland Browns. He benches 250 and has camped at Alabama. He has a 2.3 GPA and 17 on the ACT. He is considering LSU, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi State, and Ole Miss.

Ezzie Raulls, 5-8, 196, 4.6, Tuscaloosa Central, rushed for 870 yards and 14 touchdowns in eight games as a junior. He averaged 5.9 yards per carry and boasts a 31-inch vertical jump. He missed some games as a junior with a high ankle sprain. He also returns punts and kickoffs. He has camped at LSU, Auburn, Alabama, and Mississippi State. He benches 360 and power cleans 270. He has a 2.8 GPA and has scored 16 on the ACT. He likes LSU, Mississippi State, Georgia Tech, Alabama, South Carolina, and UAB.

Derrick Rogers, 6-1, 187, 4.45, Hillcrest in Evergreen is a three-year starter who played strong safety as a sophomore (one interception), then moved to running back as a junior. He raced to 2,600 yards and 35 touchdowns as a junior en route to being named all-region and all-state. He benches 235, has a 79.6 GPA, but must raise his ACT. He camped at Auburn. The Tigers lead Florida, Southern Miss, Virginia, Alabama, and Nebraska.

Titus Ryan, 6-2, 186, 4.3, Tuscaloosa County, was Tuscaloosa Area Player of the Year as a junior after rushing for over 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns. His junior year



was his first in football. He is a free safety on defense. He benches 265 and power cleans 235. He is expected to be academically eligible. He is considering Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Tennessee, Florida State, and LSU.

Others to watch are Richard Cantrell, 6-0, 180, 4.5, Heflin Cleburne County; Marquis Carter, 6-2, 195, 4.5, Centreville Bibb County; Dexter Davis, 5-11, 175, 4.5, Gadsden; Sajason Finley, 6-1, 205, 4.8, Opelika; Charles Green, 5-9, 190, 4.4, Eufaula; Rayvon Howard, 5-8, 190, 4.5, Brewton T.R. Miller; Antonio Jones, 5-10, 175, 4.4, Montgomery Robert E. Lee; Casey Kruithoff, 6-0, 165, 4.3, Town Creek Hatton; A.J. Lanier, 6-1, 240, 4.7, Pelham; Byron Oliver, 6-0, 215, 4.5, Jemison; Jeffrey Temple, 6-0, 180, 4.5, Montgomery Jeff Davis; and Patrick Tuck, 5-11, 200, 4.7, Gadsden.

#### Wide Receiver

Grant Brigham, 6-0, 170, 4.4, Mountain Brook, accounted for over 1,000 yards of total offense as a junior. He had over 20 receptions for almost 400 yards and four touchdowns. He had 19 carries for 150 yards and three touchdowns. He also had one punt return and one kickoff return touchdown. He was a Super All-Metro honorable mention. He has camped at Alabama and Furman. His brother, Henley Brigham, played the past two seasons at Baylor, but transferred to Furman this year. He benches 200, squats over 300, and power cleans 165 (13 times). He has a 3.0 GPA and made 1030 on the SAT. He is checking into LSU, Auburn, Alabama, Vanderbilt, Clemson, and Furman.

J.J. Chism, 5-11, 170, 4.35, Bibb County in Centreville, gave up football his junior year to concentrate on basketball, but is back in football this season. He played football his sophomore year and caught 25 passes for over 900 yards with 10 touchdowns in his first season of football. He did make the all-state team last year in basketball. He benches 200 and squats 400. He has a B average. He is interested in Alabama, Ole Miss, Auburn, Arkansas and Army.

Lee Guess, 5-11, 170, 4.5, Hewitt Trussville, caught 87 passes for 1,250 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. He has a 33-inch vertical jump. He made second team 6A all-state as a junior. He also returns punts and kickoffs (one touchdown). He is the holder on field goals and he can play cornerback. His great uncle, Carl Benton, played football, basketball, and ran track at UCLA. He attended the Auburn Passing Camp. He benches 185 (five times) and squats 350 (three times). He sports a 4.0 GPA and a 22 ACT. He lists Auburn, Alabama, LSU, Ole Miss, Florida, and North Carolina State.

Lance Hamilton, 6-2, 205, 4.4 wide receiver/free safety, Washington County in Chatom, caught 78 passes for 1,862 yards as a junior with 14 touchdowns. He had almost 300 yards against state champion Aliceville



Grant Brigham

in the semi finals. He also is a standout free safety who posted 90 tackles and 12 interceptions as a junior. He has a 41-inch vertical jump. He made all-state at both receiver and free safety. He also was selected all-area and all-county. He benches 315 (three times) and he has camped at Alabama. He lists Alabama, Auburn, Southern Miss, Michigan, and LSU.

Chris Jackson, 6-0, 170, 4.5, plays at the Glenwood School in Phenix City. He played his junior year at Phenix City Central, the alma mater of his father and former Bama running back star Billy Jackson. His senior year he has transferred to the small private school. In the first two games he rushed for 721 yards and nine touchdowns (12 carries, 380 yards, five touchdowns in the first game, 341 yards and four touchdowns in the second game). He has a 37-inch vertical jump. He set a meet record at Robert E. Lee by long jumping 23-1. He has camped at Auburn and UAB. He benches over 200 and squats 265 (24 times). He has a 3.7 GPA and scored 17 on the ACT. He lists Alabama, Auburn, UAB, North Alabama, and Delta State.

Benjamin Obomanu, 6-2, 184, 4.4, Selma, is considered by many to be the state's number one prospect. He had over 1,000 yards receiving as a junior with 11 touchdowns. His career numbers include 66 receptions for 1,633 yards and 16 touchdowns. He also has seven punt returns and seven kickoff returns for touchdowns. He has a 34-inch vertical jump. He also starts at free safety and posted 83 tackles and seven interceptions. He has attended Nebraska, Ole Miss, Auburn, and Florida camps. He benches 245 and squats 310. He has a 4.3 GPA and scored a 26 on the ACT. He lists Alabama, Nebraska, Auburn, Florida, Tennessee, LSU, and Ole Miss.

Matt Pierce, 6-1, 175, 4.58, UMS Wright in Mobile, has an impressive 34-inch vertical jump. He had 58 receptions for 1,196 yards

and 14 touchdowns with his longest touchdown coming from 85 yards out last year. He is an all-region and all-state selection. He camped at LSU, Alabama, Florida, Clemson, and the Nike Combine (LSU). His brother, Martin, plays football at Army. He benches 245 and squats 385. He has an 83 average with a 990 SAT and a 21 ACT. He lists Army, LSU, Alabama, Clemson, Auburn, and Ole Miss.

Christopher Simpson, 6-0, 175, 4.6, Lafayette, grabbed 56 passes as a junior for 1,019 yards and nine touchdowns in nine games. He posted a state record performance last year when he had 17 receptions for 412 yards and four touchdowns in one game. He is already qualified with a 3.8 GPA and 20 ACT. He lists Auburn, Georgia Tech, Miami, Tennessee, Florida, and Vanderbilt.

Frank Taylor, Jr., 6-2, 190, 4.4, Lawrence County in Moulton, caught 29 passes for 503 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior. He also had five rushing touchdowns. He has a 32-inch vertical jump. He made all-area and honorable mention all-state. He doubles as the team punter and he averaged 39.2 yards on 41 punts as a junior. He has camped at Alabama, Auburn, UAB, and MTSU. He benches 200, squats 420, power cleans 210, and deadlifts 385. He lists Alabama, UAB, Auburn, Southern Miss, MTSU, and Mississippi State.

Others to watch are Jamel Clark, 5-10, 180, 4.5, Mobile Williamson; Kendrick Eaton, 5-6, 155, 4.4, Camden Wilcox Central; Russell Guyton, 5-11, 165, 4.4, Gadsden; and Utavious Ingram, 6-3, 187, 4.6, Opelika.

#### Athlete

Jason Allen, 6-1, 195, 4.4, Muscle Shoals, is considered by many to be the top prospect in Alabama this year. He was named the number one prospect by *The Birmingham News*, *Birmingham Post-Herald*, and *Mobile Register*. He plays running back on offense where he rushed for over 1,200 yards and 20 touchdowns as a junior. He also had one receiving touchdown, plus 15 kickoff returns for over 500 yards and five touchdowns. He was all-state, all-area, and Region 8 Player of the Year as a junior. Those numbers come on the heels of a stellar sophomore season in which he had 1,491 yards and 24 touchdowns on 238 carries. As a cornerback, he had 34 tackles and seven interceptions as a junior, while his sophomore year he produced 55 tackles and four interceptions. He has a 37-inch vertical jump. He has camped at Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Alabama, LSU, Memphis, and UAB. He benches 325 and squats 515. He has a 3.2 GPA and has an 18 on the ACT. He will graduate in December and enroll in college in January. He plans to make his decision on Christmas morning. He lists Georgia, Alabama, Georgia Tech, LSU, Tennessee, North Carolina State, Notre Dame, and Auburn.

Ronnie Elliott, 5-10, 180, 4.4, Lee in Huntsville, took over at quarterback with





Jason Allen

three games remaining his freshman season and hasn't relinquished the position. He rushed 97 times for 980 yards and 12 touchdowns last year. He also plays defensive back and had two interceptions. He made the all-city, all-metro, and all-region teams as a junior in football, and made all-state in track. He has been the state champion in the 200 meters (21.3) and 400 meters (46.7) three of the last four years and ranks as the nation's number eight track performer. He has camped at Auburn, Louisville, and MTSU. He benches 280, squats 425, and power cleans 225. He has a 3.2 GPA. He lists Auburn, Louisville, Arkansas, Alabama, Ole Miss, Tennessee, and MTSU.

Will Herring, 6-3, 200, 4.6, Opelika, is very athletic for a big quarterback, including having a 38-inch vertical jump. He operates a Wing T offense in high school so his passing game is limited. He did pass for 915 yards and four touchdowns. He also rushed for 545 yards and 12 touchdowns. He camped at Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Bowden Academy, MTSU, Capitol City Combine, and Nike Combine (LSU). His dad, Ron Herring, played basketball at West Alabama and his grandfather, Ken Herring, played football at Austin Peay. He benches 260, squats 430, and power cleans 255. He has a 3.9 GPA and a 24 ACT. He lists MTSU, North Carolina State, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Alabama, Clemson, and Tennessee.

Chauncey Malone, 6-0, 175, 4.4, West Morgan in Trinity, has committed to Alabama over Auburn, Tennessee and Ole Miss, but there are reports he may begin his college career in junior college. He burst on the scene as a freshman when he amassed 702 yards and 11 touchdowns on 81 carries. His sophomore season he rushed for 1,523 yards and 19 touchdowns on 158 carries, and also posted six interceptions on defense.

His highlight game came against Danville when he rushed five times for 255 yards and five touchdowns, while intercepting three passes (2 for touchdowns) and also picking off a two point conversion attempt. (He ran that one back all the way, but it was just for show, not points.) His junior campaign was injury shortened, but he rushed 82 times for 875 yards and 12 touchdowns in just six games. He also had 36 tackles and one interception. He has a 36-inch vertical jump and has camped at Alabama and Auburn. He was selected all-area and honorable mention all-state each of the last two years. He benches 245, squats 400, and power cleans 225.

Montavis Pitts, 6-1, 180, 4.3, Loachapoka, is the state's fastest player. He was clocked at 4.29 seconds in the 40-yard dash at the Capital City Combine. His junior year he passed for 1,262 yards and 10 touchdowns, rushed for 304 yards and six touchdowns, and totaled 23 touchdowns and five interceptions. He also had four kickoff and two punt return touchdowns. He plays cornerback on defense and he snagged five interceptions (one returned for a 75-yard touchdown). He has camped at Tennessee, LSU, and Auburn. He was all-area in three sports (football, basketball, baseball), and has set three Class A state records in track (100 meters 10.97, 200 meters 21.84, long jump 22-10). He also won the state 300 meter hurdles. He has a 32-inch vertical jump, benches 260, has a 3.5 GPA, and scored 17 on the ACT. He is the second cousin of Walter Pitts who played basketball at Alabama. He committed early to Virginia Tech, but says now he will look at Tennessee, Auburn, Alabama, Florida and Ole Miss.

Others to watch are Zach Anderson, 6-4, 215, 4.5, Bay Minette Baldwin County; Ben Boyce, 5-11, 175, 4.5, Mobile St. Paul's; Dominique Cosper, 5-11, 170, 4.5, Anniston Walter Wellborn; Kewaski Jackson, 6-2, 185, 4.6, Birmingham Jackson-Olin; Taurus Summerville, 6-1, 175, 4.5, Aliceville; and Niko Whiteside, 5-10, 190, 4.5, Gadsden.

#### Defensive Back

Sammie Autrey, 6-0, 186, 4.5, strong safety, Wilcox Central in Camden, has built himself up from a scrawny 160-pound safety as a junior, when he had 77 tackles, three interceptions, two fumbles caused, four blocked punts, and three inside kick recoveries. He has a 32-inch vertical jump, a 3.1 GPA, and a 16 ACT. He has camped at Alabama, Auburn, and Ole Miss. He benches 285, squats 395, and power cleans 265. He lists Alabama, Tennessee, Ole Miss, Auburn, Mississippi State, and Louisville.

Larry Brackins, 6-5, 200, 4.6, wide receiver/free safety, Dothan, is thought by some to want to play offense in college, but many think his future is on defense. He made honorable mention all-state as a junior and the pre-season *Dothan Eagle* Super 12. He caught 43 passes for 772 yards and eight touchdowns at receiver, while at free safety had 104 tackles and grabbed five interceptions.



Chauncey Malone

He returned two of the interceptions for touchdowns. He has a 36-inch vertical jump. He benches 220, squats 405, and power cleans 235. He has a 2.8 GPA. He has camped at Troy State. He is looking at Florida State, Florida, Clemson, Miami, West Virginia, Auburn, and Troy.

Will Brock, 6-0, 180, 4.5, cornerback, Crossville, has played running back his entire prep career. He managed 600 yards as a freshman, 1,400 yards as a sophomore, and 836 yards and 12 touchdowns on 187 carries as a junior. This year he is playing wide receiver and cornerback. He attended the Alabama seven-on-seven camp. He is already qualified and has good strength. He likes Alabama, Auburn, Southern Miss, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, Troy State, and Jacksonville State.

Larry Edwards, 6-2, 202, 4.45, free safety, East Limestone in Athens, has nine interceptions over the past three seasons. He has also played cornerback. He is a state qualifier in the 100 meters (11.1) and he also anchors a 4 X 100 meter relay team that finished third in the state. He starts at running back on offense and has amassed over 2,000 yards the last two seasons. He camped at UAB. He benches 285, squats 520, and power cleans 225. He has a 2.7 GPA and scored 16 on the ACT. He lists UAB, Southern Miss, Alabama, Auburn, and Ole Miss.

Juwan Garth, 6-2, 190, 4.6, strong safety/wide receiver, Austin in Decatur, has committed to Alabama. He is a two-time all-area performer. He plays receiver on offense and outside linebacker on defense. He caught 13 passes for 378 yards and four touchdowns as a junior, while defensively, he registered 83 tackles, three sacks, one interception, four caused fumbles, and two fumble recoveries. He also is a standout in basketball (14.6 points, 8.7 rebounds) He has a 33-inch vertical jump, a 3.3 GPA, and 20



ACT. He has camped at Alabama and Auburn. He benches 230, power cleans 230, deadlifts 480.

Tyrone Hicks, 5-10, 176, 4.5, cornerback, Lee in Huntsville, led the state as a junior with eight interceptions, and also had 71 tackles. He has 16 career interceptions. He was the Co-MVP in Huntsville as well as all-metro and all-state. He plays running back on offense and had 126 carries for 930 yards and 11 touchdowns. He had four receiving touchdowns, two punt return touchdowns, and two interception return touchdowns. He has camped at MTSU and Louisville. His brother, Dwone Hicks, is the star running back at MTSU. He benches 310, squats 450, and power cleans 240. He benches 225 (14 times). He has a 2.5 GPA. He lists Auburn, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Arkansas, Alabama, MTSU, and Louisville.

Ramzee Robinson, 5-10, 170, 4.5, quarterback/cornerback, Butler in Huntsville, has committed to Alabama, where he is expected to be a cornerback. An athletic quarterback who led his team to the second round of the state playoffs as a junior, he passed for 1,612 yards and 15 touchdowns, while rushing for 504 yards and four touchdowns. He played in the secondary as a freshman and is getting some work at cornerback this year.

Kevin Sears, 6-5, 214, 4.65, free safety, Russellville, has committed to Auburn, where he is expected to move to linebacker. He had 56 tackles and seven interceptions as a junior. He is an all-region player who has camped at Kentucky and UAB. He benches 245 and squats 365. He still needs to qualify academically. He is the first cousin of Colin (Auburn, Dallas Cowboys) and Chad Sears (UNA, Dallas Cowboys).

Others to watch are Randy Anderson, 5-9, 175, 4.5, Prattville; Renza Avery, 6-1, 190, 4.5, Gadsden; Xavier Brooks, 5-9, 170, 4.5, Montgomery Jeff Davis; Demetrius Derico, 5-10, 185, 4.5, Montgomery Robert E. Lee; Bryce Etheridge, 5-11, 185, 4.5, Birmingham Hoover; Will Evans, 5-9, 165, 4.3, Montgomery Jeff Davis; Brant Haynie, 5-11, 175, 4.5, Gadsden; Durand Jackson, 6-0, 180, 4.6, Moulton Lawrence County; Abraham Jones, 6-0, 190, 4.5, Prichard Vigor; Jermony Kimbrough, 5-9, 165, 4.5, Prichard Blount; Ed Nelson, 5-11, 170, 4.6, Theodore; Lawrence O'Neal, 6-0, 175, 4.6, Reeltown; Terry Rucker, 6-1, 187, 4.5, Birmingham Tarrant; Lee Smith, 5-10, 180, 4.5, Mobile Shaw; and Jeremy Toler, 6-3, 190, 4.5, Alexander City Benjamin Russell.

#### Place-Kicker

Elliott Bishop, 6-2, 185, Russellville, has had only one blocked kick in 111 field goal and extra point attempts. He kicks off a one-inch tee. He is 100 for 103 on extra points (3 years), and he is five of eight on field goals. His kickoffs are approximately 50 per cent in the end zone. He is adept at pooch kicks, spot kicks, and three different varieties of onside kicks. He is an all-area and all-region performer who has attended



Ramzee Robinson

Alabama, Auburn, Pelphrey, National Kicking Service of Rome, Georgia, Ray Guy,

and Mike King kicking camps. He also punts. He benches 235, squats 335, and power cleans 225. He sports a 4.0 GPA and a 25 ACT. He lists Stanford, LSU, Alabama, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, and Central Florida.

Josh Woodard, 6-1, 170, Decatur, made all-region, all-state, and Super All-State as a junior after nailing eight of 12 field goals (long 50, five over 40) and 53 of 53 extra points. He scored a total of 77 points as a junior. His senior year got off to a booming start with three field goals in his first four tries. The miss was a 55-yarder that hit the crossbar. His kickoffs are going about four yards deep into the end zone. He kicks off a two-inch tee. He has attended most of the Mike King Kicking Camps in North Alabama. He benches 215, squats 265, and power cleans 200. He has a 3.1 GPA. He is interested in Alabama, Tennessee, UAB, Central Florida, and Mississippi State.

Others to watch are Brent Dye, 6-0, 175, Alexander City Benjamin Russell; Patrick Johnson, 5-10, 170, Athens; and Clay Trimm, 5-11, 180, Northport Tuscaloosa County.

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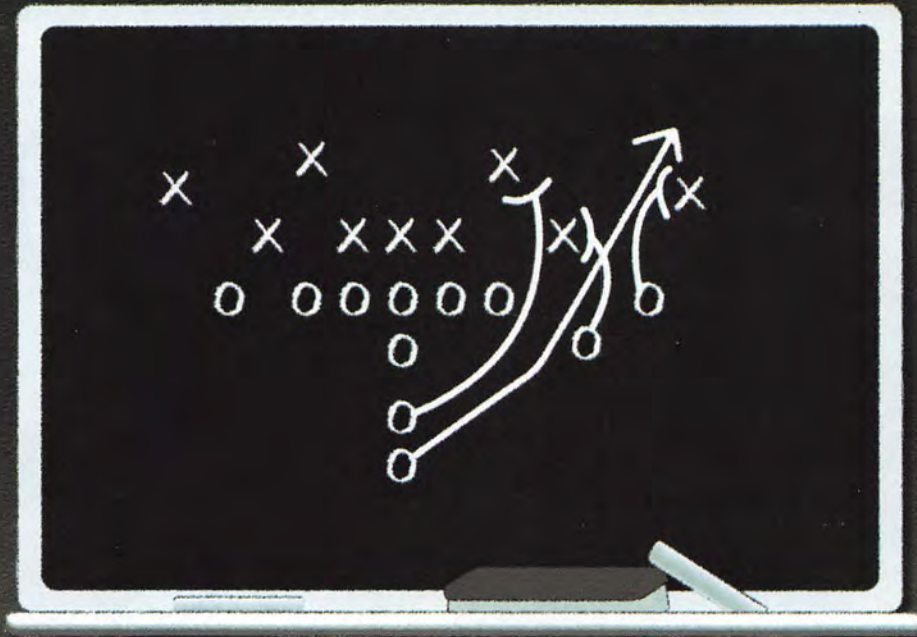
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